



Hands All Around - August 2019- REVISED  
Quilts United in Learning Together – Schenectady  
<http://www.quiltschenectady.org>

Meetings – First Thursdays Sept. – June @ 7pm, with doors opening @ 6:30 at the  
First Reformed Church of Scotia - 224 N Ballston Ave., Scotia

**From Your President**

“things fall apart; the center cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.” —William Butler Yeats, *The Second Coming*

Dear Friends,

That quote from one of my favorite poems may seem like an ominous place to begin this letter, but bear with me here.

In a world that, if you follow the news, certainly sounds like it is falling apart at the seams, it is incumbent upon us women to do the repair work. We are the ones who know how to mend, create, heal and nurture: we can stitch the seams back together. And, characteristically, when we are finished the raveled piece is stronger and more beautiful or useful than it was before.

It is the strength and nobility, the experience and talent, the quiet determination and devotion of people like you, My Fellow Quilters and Guild Members, that keeps me in the Guild these years. It is my desire to get to know more of you better than I do, that led me to volunteer to be your president this year and next. It started, of course, with a mutual interest in quilting, but it has blossomed into so much more these last 13 years.

Despite many positive advances for women, our culture remains dominantly a patriarchy and has, sadly, morphed into a youth culture too. That leaves women, especially mature women, sidelined in so many deeply misguided and sometimes even tragic ways. The evidence can be subtle and irritating like where two older women are seated in many restaurants verses where a man and woman or better yet, two men are seated. But we politely insist on equal treatment and are slowly winning THAT battle. But I digress... This cultural bias makes me angry and sad and deeply committed to addressing it somehow, creatively, in my own life.

I pledge to do my best to keep this fine organization healthy, relevant and fun because quilting is important to us: we love it. And what we love has value not only to us but to the world. It must or we wouldn't care so much. We understand this so deeply we barely ever articulate it even to ourselves. We don't need to. We cut, sew, pin, iron and imagine someone we love wrapped in our love —or some needy child we will never meet, —or some wounded veteran.

Our hearts go out —dressed in beautiful and unique quilts— to soothe, warm, guide and repair the world, to “knit up the raveled sleeve of care.”

I am thrilled and honored to be among such women. Thank you for this opportunity.

*Kathleen Morris*

P. S. Okay, okay, I know that knitting and quilting aren't the same, but many of you do both. And I think you all will understand me quoting Shakespeare's Macbeth (These ARE tragic times aren't they?) and using the original archaic spelling too.

### September 5<sup>th</sup> (meeting starts at 7, doors open at 6:30)

“Best Materials + Best Practices = Best Quilts” with Diana Marshal of Gloversville Sewing Center

<https://www.gloversvillesewingcenter.com>

She has expertise in a great number of areas: threads, needles, batting, machine use and maintenance to name a few.

- Fat Quarter: School Days
- Show and Tell Projects (what have you been doing all summer????)
- Quilts for Northern Rivers kids and Soldier Quilts
- Name tag (so you can be in the raffle drawing)
- Outstanding Block of the Month completed blocks (yes, this includes me 😊)
- Return your library books
- A Friend or New Member: \$5.00

### October 3<sup>rd</sup> (meeting starts at 7, doors open at 6:30)

Over the Moon with Linda Warren

<http://lindawarrendesigns.com>

“Over the Moon” Class– supplies list is included with this newsletter as a separate attachment.

The class is Friday, October 4 from 10am-4pm and there is still space available.

- Fat Quarter: Pumpkin Mania
- Show and Tell Projects
- Quilts for Northern Rivers kids and Soldier Quilts
- Name tag (so you can be in the raffle drawing)
- A Friend or New Member: \$5.00

### November 7<sup>th</sup> (meeting starts at 7, doors open at 4:00pm)

This is our annual sew-in for Northern Rivers (formerly Northeast Parent and Child). Please come early, if you can.

Members should bring sewing supplies and machines, cutting supplies (some patterns need them), tying needles and scissors, etc. The guild has irons and ironing boards now. Members can come at any time from 4pm onward to sew. Dinner is at 6:30 for those who have been sewing. Members may also bring their own “kits” that they made at home for Northern Rivers.

- Fat Quarter: Harvest
- Show and Tell Projects
- Quilts for Northern Rivers kids and Soldier Quilts
- Name tag (so you can be in the raffle drawing)
- No fee for this month for guests

### December 5<sup>th</sup> (meeting starts at 7, doors open at 6:30)

Holiday Party

This is our annual “Sweet and Savory” Holiday Celebration. For this meeting, we sample our favorite holiday finger foods and ask half of the membership to share theirs (this year, it’s the first half of the alphabet (A-L) who get to share their favorite dishes)

There will be more information in the next newsletter or via email with the specific items for the organizations that we support.

- Fat Quarter: Christmas Joy
- Show and Tell Projects (what are you working on for the holidays?)
- Quilts for Northern Rivers kids and Soldier Quilts
- Name tag (so you can be in the raffle drawing)
- No fee for this month for guests

### Fat Quarters

September- School Days  
October – Pumpkin Mania  
November – Harvest  
December – Christmas Joy  
January – Landscapes

February – Travel Fun  
March - Sports  
April- Easter  
May - Flowers  
June – Summer Fun

### Membership

Kathy Wagner could use some help at the Membership table at meetings. You don't have to be there for the whole meeting, but she does need coverage at each meeting. You can speak to her at the September meeting.

### Veteran's Quilts

The Veterans Quilts project tried something new this summer. We held a half day cutting and tying session at the church on July 26 and it was a big success. Twelve members attended and much fabric was cut for kits (Thank you to the G-Go girls, Deb Kreifels and Judy Fregoe who brought along their Go machines.) and two quilts were tied and taken to be bound.

Since this program began in April of 2012, we have passed out 495 quilts at the VA Hospital in Albany. This year, 96 quilts were given to in-patients at the VA which is the most ever in a year. In the past, the average number given per visit was 10 – 12, but in the spring of this year, 17 or 18 quilts have been the norm. Hence the need for quilts has increased. We are hopeful that Guild members will continue their support for this project. Thank you to the many who have contributed to these efforts.

Pat Terry

### Pet Beds

Thank you all for all of the donations! Many beds have gone to many furry friends! Since I have had this responsibility for several years now, I feel the need to set some guidelines to help prevent my burnout, I hope you understand.

Fabrics Not to donate for stuffing or beds: Wool, Felt, Linen, Towels, T-shirt's, Netting, Foam, and Blue Jean pieces. Thank you for your continued diligence in ensuring that there are no non fabric items in with the scrap pieces!

Donations of Craft Batting, Clean Pillow and Cushion Stuffing is greatly appreciated for the larger beds , due to being light weight. I greatly appreciate the donations being left on my front porch vs bringing to a meeting and having to take them out to my truck. If you have large bags please just put them in my black GMC Canyon truck vs bringing them in. Very greatly appreciated! Yardages continue to be appreciated as do Fat Quarters Thank you for your continued support of providing comfort to all furry friends and thank you for your understanding of these new guidelines.

Jane Martinec

### Combined 2020 Autumn Inspirations Quilt Show & Guild Year Challenge

We are combining the 2020 Autumn Inspirations Quilt Show Challenge with the June Guild Year Challenge. The challenge is a play of "2020". This challenge is to make a miniature quilt which measures 20" X 20" or, if circular, 20" in diameter using the colors of Autumn. A miniature quilt is a miniature of a full sized quilt where all aspects of the quilt are proportionally reduced in scale, for example 1 foot = 1 inch. While there are several opinions regarding the size of a miniature quilt, for our challenge the quilt must measure 20" X 20". The miniature quilt can be pieced, paper-pieced or appliqued and must be finished and bound in order to be included in the Guild Year Challenge at the June 2020 meeting. During the June meeting, prizes will be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place miniature quilts as voted on by the guild. There will also be prizes awarded based on votes received at the show.

These challenge quilts will be collected at the June 2020 meeting and held for display and public voting at our Autumn Inspirations quilt show on October 10th & 11th, 2020. There will be a special quilt registration form available prior to the June meeting for these challenge quilts.

### Member News and Bulletin Board

**For Sale:** Bernina Overlocker/Serger 1200 DA \$300.00

2 – 3 – 4 thread overlocker, lower loop threader, needle threader, accessories, swing-out presser foot, LCD display, owners workbook

Bernina Artista 640 SEWING & EMBROIDERY MACHINE \$1400.00

Extension table, 12 presser feet in case, 40+ bobbins, tools, BSR, 2 sole walking foot, seam guide with ruler, magnifying glasses, USB cable, wheeled carry case, embroidery module with carry case, two sizes hoops, multiple spool holder, circular embroidery attachment, Place & Stitch Embroidery Program with CD (Sewing With Nancy), software package Version 5 and software manual, several rolls of stabilizers (wash away, cut away and tear away), extra carry case for accessories, and machine owner's manual For more information, contact Eileen Buel ( eileensbuel@gmail.com )

Jan Conti wanted to share this cool web video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqiVIn5HPso&feature=youtu.be>

### Who's Who in the Guild?- revised after September Guild Meeting

President Kathleen Morris
Vice President- Debby Kriefels
Programs – Mary Wade
Membership – Kathy Wagner
Webmaster – Kathie Lutz
Treasurer – Mary Ann McDermott
Historian – Lisa Wend
Kids' Quilts – Emily Spooner
Veteran's Quilts – Pat Terry
Goodie Basket – Cindy Carusone and Barbara Valchovic
Block of the Month – Tina Novak and Pat Mahoney
Fat Quarters – Nina Whitney
Library – Pat McGurn and Anita Paul
Hospitality – Maryann Losee and Karen Smith
Quilt Show – Linda Cary and Natalie McDonough
Newsletter – Natalie McDonough

### Upcoming Quilt Shows

Don't forget about the Quilt Show in Bennington on September 14-15 (Sat. 9-5 and Sunday 9-4) at Mount Anthony Union Middle School. <http://www.benningtonquiltfest.com>

Lexington (Mass.) The 2019 Rising Star Quilt show will be held Friday October 4 & Saturday October 5 at St Brigid Church, 1995 Massachusetts Ave. Lexington, MA  
Hours: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 5 pm <http://www.risingstarquilters.org/show.html>

Massachusetts Shop Hop from Oct. 18-20. Quilt Bug is doing a bus trip on Oct. 19. Call the shop for more information (and also learn about their Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> first anniversary celebration) 518-280-2586

The deadlines for the newsletters are November 9 for the November newsletter, February/March newsletter - February 7 and the "summer" newsletter - May 8.

If you have information for the newsletter, please send it to me, Natalie McDonough at [quiltsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:quiltsnewsletter@gmail.com) and be sure to include your name, email address and telephone number in case I have any questions or need more information. Just as [quiltsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:quiltsnewsletter@gmail.com) doesn't indicate the name of the person who is sending the message, the name is important. Thank you for your help.

### 2020 Quilt Show

Hello Ladies,

And so it begins....I'm really looking forward to working with all of you in making our 2020 Autumn Inspiration's Quilt Show another success. Special thanks to Natalie McDonough who volunteered to be Co-Chair.

As you know, our Shows' profits are our only income and carry us for two years. It's because of our show we can support all of our charity quilt efforts, Program - bringing us nationally recognized Quilter's, helps to support all our of special committees and allows us to have our meetings at such a wonderful venue. I remember saying that the Guild is our guild and it's great because of you. Everyone needs to do their part so that we continue with our excellent reputation of having one of the best quilt shows in the area. By volunteering you not only help your guild but you get to know great people and make new friends. That being said in order for us to succeed....

#### **WE NEED**

**A RAFFLE QUILT** –If there is a member(s) or Friendship group that would be willing to make our Raffle Quilt. We need to know as soon as possible as we use the quilt in our advertising material as well as benefiting from raffle ticket sales.

**RAFFLE TICKET CHAIRPERSON** – responsible for the coordination of preparing and distributing raffle tickets to members and collecting money from members. We have a volunteer willing to work with the Chairperson.

**VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE** – Regina Guzzo has agreed to be the Chairperson but needs at least TWO members to help.

**JUDGING CO-CHAIR** – Kathie Lutz has been chairing this committee for several shows and would like a Co-chair to share the knowledge. This will involve working with an excel spreadsheet.

**REGISTRATION** – This position involves using an excel spreadsheet. Responsible for the logging of all quilts registered, quilts received when dropped off and each quilt to owner after the show. Tallies total quilt value for insurance purposes for the Show Chair. This person will work closely with Barbara Becker who is Catalog Design/Layout Chairperson.

**QUILTS, QUILTS, QUILTS** – We need quilts for our show. We can't have a Quilt Show without quilts. People come to Quilt Shows to see quilts, all kinds of quilts. You do not have to have your quilt judged...it's a choice.

As a reminder the Boutique (Pat Mahoney and Tina Novak) will be accepting donations at our October meeting with the last collection taken in May. Quilting items only, books (nothing published before 2010) and magazines (nothing published before 2017). If you can pre-measure and label your donated fabric it will be greatly appreciated.

See you all in September and if you'd like to volunteer for any of the above let me know at our meeting, send me an email – [ronlincary@yahoo.com](mailto:ronlincary@yahoo.com) or call 518-708-9755. We're going to have fun!!!

Linda Cary, Show Chair

**Don't Forget Your Roots" is a 3-part history of Q.U.I.L.T.S.**

It was researched and written by Lois Bena and appeared in the guild's newsletters from November 2008 through August 2009.

After enjoying membership in Q.U.I.L.T.S. for five years, I started to ask questions about its early beginnings. When my grandmother was making quilts, there was no one else she knew who was making them. When I made a couple primitive quilts early in life, I had no one to talk to about what I was doing, and there certainly were no quilt shops with fabric, tools and patterns. We've all heard about quilting bees in early American homes, but the idea of getting together regularly to talk about quilts was exciting to me. I didn't even know what a "guild" was until a friend invited me to attend a meeting of Q.U.I.L.T.S.

Apparently, I was out of the loop in terms of knowing much about what was available in the quilting world. Quilt guilds have been active for quite some time, especially in connection with churches, where people already have a community, and learn that they have something special in common. I knew that QUILT North was formed from members of the Schenectady guild, and I assumed that the Delmar quilt guild was an off-shoot of ours as well. I was wrong about that. Q.U.I.L.T. Schenectady) began with former members of Delmar's active guild in the early 1980s.

Two original members of our guild, Shirley Hedman and Chris Kaczynski, graciously sat down with me last season to reminisce and help me understand how it all started. Driving distance appears to be the main reason that some quilters were interested in starting a new group. There was no lack of interest in quilting in this area, but it took a little time to organize and spread the news, and extend invitations that would reach interested quilters.

Shirley was teaching quilting classes in the fall of 1981, and she let people know that a new group was being planned, passing out some written information. In the spring of 1982, more literature was given out at the Old Dorp Quilt Show, and interested people began to sign up for the first meeting at that time. There is no written history to draw from, but it is thought that the first official meeting of Q.U.I.L.T.S. was in June, 1982. It was a well-attended gathering in the common room of the Schenectady Public Library.

After a few meetings, it was clear that the guild needed a bit more stability regarding regular dates being available to use the room. The meetings then moved to the Scotia Town Office building, but the room there soon became too small for all the guild's needs. Members then met at the Holiday Inn and Carl Company Community Room until finally settling at its present location. In addition to Shirley and Chris, some of the other original members that first year were: Cathy Gruythers, Marie Miller, Rpsmary Tonjes, Nancy Garver, Pat Goins, and Mary Seielstad. If any of our present members should be added to this historical list, please let Lois know right away.

In the next newsletter, Part Two will describe how meetings were planned (involves sugar) and how a baby spawned a connection to Northeast Parent and Child techniques.

Part One of "Don't Forget Your Roots" described the way that our guild was formed, and the first places that meetings were held. Q.U.I.L.T.S. was bound to succeed, with so many creative and energetic women who had already given themselves over to the job of managing home and family, and still had more to give. The first months of meeting were more casual than we now enjoy, with large amounts of "Show and Tell" and general sharing of ideas and when it seemed time to do a little more planning of meetings, our first major players would get together at the candy shop on Union Street to discuss ideas for "program" and of course, have a cup of tea and something chocolate to go with it. At the time, there were no officers or official persons in charge. Guild members enjoyed quilting and each other so much that the group existed for seven years before the idea took hold, to have people volunteer for certain positions of responsibility.

From a 1989 newsletter in the historian files, I found an article announcing officers elected for the first time. At least, this was the first time there was a printed record of officers. In addition to the expected offices of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and membership, historian, program, hospitality and library, there were a few others of interest: news, raffle tickets, telephone, and trip co-ordinator. I smiled at the idea of a telephone coordinator, or a telephone committee. No one wants to answer the phone anymore, especially when they can see who's calling. What a tough job that was (and still is) to share information by Bell's invention. I like the idea of having a trip coordinator. Wouldn't it be fun to take a couple trips a year? But I'll bet that's a tough job too.

There was a very proud moment in our guild's history that I didn't know about until Shirley Hedman told me about it. Q.U.I.L.T.S. was nominated for something called the "Golden Rule Award" offered by the J.C. Penney Company. Q.U.I.L.T.S. was nominated for the following:

“Club members have made and donated over 200 hand- made quilts which have been distributed to three groups of children in local emergency shelters.”

Q.U.I.L.T.S. did not win the award, but was honored at a ceremony,

One of the main reasons I was driven to write about the roots of Q.U.I.L.T.S. is because of the strength of the organization, and I can see from the old newsletters that the strength is still with us. Former presidents and program chairs are still active members today: Shirley Hedman, Chris Kaczynski, Kathie Greenwold, Nancy Finelli, Cathy Riccio Gruyters, and Marie Miller are in those pages. Please be sure to let me know of others I may have missed.

It has been a joyful quest to discover how Q.U.I.L.T.S. became involved in a project to provide quilts to the children of Northeast Parent and Child Society. I have interviewed Shirley Hedman, Chris Kaczynski, and Cathy Gruyters from our guild, Kathie Boyle, a former member of Q.U.I.L.T.S., and Cynthia Placek, who was a staff member at Northeast, and became the liaison between our two organizations.

Shirley did her best to document the early days of the relationship: “Previously, we had made a few quilts for the Women’s Shelter in Schenectady, which started with a quilt our friendship group made together in 1987 as an expression of joy over the coming birth of a baby (Andrea Riccio – Mom is Cathy Gruyters). We expanded this project through the guild, starting in 1989, with quilts for Northeast Parent and Child.”

A connection to Northeast was made through former member Kathie Boyle. A member of Q.U.I.L.T.S., Kathie worked for G.E. R and D, and was present at a Christmas party where a G.E. Santa program was presenting gifts to Northeast, previously known as the Schenectady Children’s Home. Cynthia Placek spoke there, thanking the employees for their gifts to the children, and told everyone how much their gifts meant to children who had lost so much in their young lives. Kathie was very aware of the needs these children might have because she grew up near the Children’s Home and went to school with some of these children. She said she was not only moved to hear reminders of the needs of the kids, but impressed by Cynthia’s way of sharing their stories, making her want to become involved. Kathie told some guild members about Cynthia and the children she championed, thinking this would be a great place to donate quilts made with love.

Cynthia remembers being asked to speak at a meeting of Q.U.I.L.T.S. She says she’ll never forget the welcome she received. “I had spoken to many groups because I was a fund-raiser. That was my primary job. At a time when other groups were declining in membership, I could see that this group did not have this problem. The place was filled; there must have been 180 people in that room.” When Cynthia asked how many people would be interested in making quilts for kids at Northeast, dozens of hands shot up in the air. From her notes after that meeting, she reads to me, “It was a moment I wish I could have shared with our staff – such enthusiasm for our kids!”

Cathy Gruyters and Shirley Hedman later met with Cynthia to talk about how to arrange sending donations and set up criteria for who would receive a quilt. Over the years, the criteria has changed a bit, to accommodate the changing nature of families and of individual needs.

The needs of children and families are still as critical as they were in 1989. Kathie Boyle says of the “lost” children in our community then and now, “These are our children, and if we’re lucky, they will come out whole, and contribute back to their community.” And then she told me the story of a young man who was a former child resident of Northeast, who came to speak to the guild at the age of 18 or 19. He wanted to show the guild members his red, white and blue patriotic quilt that he was given as an adult and staff member at Northeast. Kathie says, “He clutched the quilt to himself and was shaking as he told us how much the quilt meant to him. Our president had to put her arms around him to hold him up.” Here it is, 20 years later, and we were both moved to tears as she repeated the story.