



Hands All Around - NOVEMBER 2019
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

Dear Friends,

Today I woke to a gorgeous, generous sugar-coating of snow redefining the landscape and signaling the real arrival of the dreaded (for me, a transplanted Kentuckian) winter. It's serene loveliness, however, led to a kind of meditation upon this time of year. During a spiritual delving period years ago, I learned that summer is the fullness and flowering of the outward, physical world and our energies are usually directed accordingly. And winter holds the same opportunity for rich creativity and deep personal flowering in our spiritual, psychological and interior lives. I recall vividly realizing that is why the school year starting in September is so perfectly correct—as it had always felt to me. Autumn is, in effect, the spring of the soul.

As women and quilters, we innately follow these same rhythms of the earth, whether we are particularly conscious of it or not. At this time the yards and gardens are hopefully well-tucked away for winter and we are starting to think in earnest about the holidays. We can hopefully create with somewhat fewer distractions than the summer holds.

We call our craft quilting. At a deeper level, though, what is it? *A coming together* is the best phrase I can think of. We choose fabrics that appeal to us. Some of these choices have been made over many years and resulted in our impressive “stashes.” (Makes me think of squirrels and their stashes of acorns —down to the sometimes forgotten cache locations!) Then we choose sets of fabrics that “play well together” (Didn't we strive to teach our children that lesson?) for the design we have in mind. Then we cut our fabric very carefully to fit together (So much like the foundation of a house —OUR home.) Next we carefully sew the pieces together, checking, pressing and auditioning our blocks as we go to make certain our aesthetic and construction standards are coming together as planned. Often surprises crop up that may need correction (—Here's where pulling apart may be necessary) or incorporation because they reveal new or exciting combinations and opportunities. With the top complete, we have the quilt sandwich to compose and to bring together by our beautiful quilting. With more loving work —the binding and labeling— we are finished at last!

Ah, but then there's the hanging sleeve —because we are not yet really finished. We come together with other quilters because we know what goes into bringing a quilt together in the first place —that it is more than sewing techniques: it is soul work. We want and need to share our art, our knowledge and experience because it is intense, unique and deserves an appreciative audience.

I am increasingly honored and delighted by the women who have come together in our Guild. You are dedicated, generous, intelligent, creative and so much more. My role as president is allowing me to know you better than before.

Thank you deeply.

And may your holidays bring you the joy of creation and the peace of the process in quilting and all things. Looking forward to coming together with you all through this winter...

Be well,

Kathleen Morris

President, QUILTS Schenectady

December 5th (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)

- Fat Quarter: Christmas Joy
- Show and Tell Projects (what have you been 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

January 9, 2020 (meeting starts at 7, doors open at 6:30)

NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST THURSDAY IN JANUARY

We will have a visit from Ann from the Quilt Bug. Learn what's new at the closest quilt shop to our Guild.

<http://www.quiltbug.com>

- Fat Quarter: Landscapes
- Show and Tell Projects (what have you been working during for the holidays?)
- Quilts for Northern Rivers kids and Soldier Quilts
- Name tag (so you can be in the raffle drawing)
- \$5.00 fee for this month for guests

February 6, 2020 Annual Tie-In: (4pm start if you are able to come then, with a short meeting at 6:30pm)

It's a Leap Year so you have an extra day to sew this month!

We will have our Annual Tie-In for KIDS quilts. Like in the past, we will start this work session/meeting at 4 PM so we can get more done. Our goal is to have 12 tables and 2 quilts tied at each of the 12 tables. Please bring large needles (with large eyes), masking tape, and scissors. Tying thread, and quilts and batting will be provided. **PLEASE NOTE THE UNUSUAL TIME!** If you are able to come at 4:00 to start tying, please do. If you are not able to come early, please come at 6:30 (slightly earlier than normal) for a short business meeting and more tying. Dinner will be provided for those who come early. There will also be scraps for cutting (please bring your cutting tools), and limited space for machine sewing/quilting for those who are interested.

- Fat Quarter: Travel Fun
- **NO 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

March 5, 2020 (meeting starts at 7, doors open at 6:30)

Lynn Kane- lecture "The American Quilter"

The workshop for this month is on Friday, March 6, and Lynn's topic is "Unique Finishings with Borders and Bindings". The cost of the workshop is \$40.00 To register for the workshop, please contact Mary Wade at (removed for the website)

<http://puppygirldesigns.com/about-me/>

- Fat Quarter: Sports (Do you have your NCAA Basketball Final Four pool teams picked yet???)
- Show and Tell Projects
- Quilts for Northern Rivers kids and Soldier Quilts
- Name tag (so you can be in the raffle drawing)
- \$5 fee for this month for guests

SAVE THE DATES: April 3-4 Quilt Retreat

First Reformed Church of Scotia. Friday, April 3-Saturday, April 4. It's 9am-9pm each day.

All meals, beverages and desserts are included. We'll have goody bags, activities, games, great prizes, show and tell and lots of time to sew!

There will be only 18 two-day spots and 2 one-day spots.

The cost is \$110 per person for two-days; \$60 per person for one-day spots. Reservations will begin at the January 2020 meeting; first come, first serve; payment in full will be due at the time of the reservation and is required to hold your spot. If you have questions, contact Lisa Wend the woman behind last year's incredibly successful retreat! (removed for the website)

Mary Wade has been very busy planning programs for next year. Our reward for finishing our quilts for the 2020 Show is to get to hear Joan Wolfram in September! More details for our upcoming programs in the next newsletter!

Fat Quarters

December – Christmas Joy

April- Easter

January – Landscapes

May - Flowers

February – Travel Fun

June – Summer Fun

March - Sports

Northern Rivers Holiday “wish list”

There is a great list of items for the students, and those who are having to transition after aging out of the program on their website:

<https://northernrivers.org/giving/holiday-giving> (includes the Amazon wish list and places to donate) as well as the general list: https://northernrivers.org/images/2019_Holiday_Giving_wish_list_v.1.pdf

City Mission

While we don't have a specific list of items, they do take donations of household items as well:

<https://citymission.com/2016/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Donation-Guidelines.pdf>

Their high priority need is toiletry items for women at the shelter. Full size items, rather than hotel travel-sized items are preferred.

Quilt Show update from Chair, Linda Cary

Everything is moving along nicely for our 2020 Autumn Inspirations Quilt Show. Thank you Kathy Hermance, Barbara Becker, Nancy Gifford, Maryann McDermott, Mary Wade and Kathy Wagner for sharing their skills in making our raffle quilt. They have given the perfect example of “many hands making light work”. We're hoping to have it completed by our December member's meeting. All committee chairs have been filled but we're still looking for someone to “shadow” Suzanne Bernadt, Supervisor of Admissions (this isn't critical but would be so helpful to anyone wishing to take on this position). Our contract with Proctors has been signed.

A reminder that our Guild Challenge will also be the Show Challenge. The challenge is to make a fall themed miniature quilt (no larger than 20” x 20”). A miniature quilt is constructed using a reduced or scaled down version of the design of a full-size quilt not one single small block. The challenge must also incorporate a piece of the Raffle Quilt fabric (1/8 yard) and will be available to purchase for \$1.00 at our December meeting.

So, as I've been saying, let's get those quilts ready for our show.

Looking forward to working with everyone in continuing to make our Quilt Show one of the best.

Thanks to all of you.

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.

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

Latefa Lang has completed the Joyful Quilter block of the month, "Botanica Park", if anyone has any questions, please call her, (removed for the website). There is a cutting issue with block 11 (eleven) but you do have enough material!

The deadlines for the newsletters are: 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 (removed for website) and be sure to include your name, email address and telephone number in case I have any questions or need more information. Just as (removed for website) doesn't indicate the name of the person who is sending the message, the name is important. Thank you for your help.

Who's Who in the Guild? - revised after September Guild Meeting (contact information removed for the website)

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