

# Q.U.I.L.T.S.

Quilters United in Learning Together – Schenectady  
August 2009

Meetings on First Thursdays at 7 PM (Doors open at 6:30)  
First Unitarian Society, Schenectady – 1221 Wendell Avenue  
<http://www.quiltschenectady.org>

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

The question is not "Where did Summer Go?", it's "Where *is* Summer??" Regardless of the weather, the summer is going by quickly. As relaxing and laid back as this season is supposed to be, I know a lot of you have been busy with graduations, weddings and family get-togethers. I do hope that you are finding time to relax and enjoy the season. Aren't these rainy, cool days just wonderful for getting lost in your sewing room? ;-))

I would like to take this time to extend a sincere "Thank You!" to all outgoing officers and committee members, along with a big "Welcome" to the new and continuing officers and committee members. Our Program Committee (old & new) has been working hard over the summer to prepare a program which we hope you will enjoy. We have speakers scheduled for September and November. This year, our annual 'Sew-in' will be held in October and will start earlier to allow us more time to work on quilt tops for Northeast and enjoy the fellowship of our guild friends – both old and new. In April, fiber artist Pamela Druhen will be speaking at our April meeting and will conduct an all-day workshop ("Vermont Window") the following day.

This coming guild year will also be a planning year for our biennial quilt show, which is tentatively planned for October 2 & 3, 2010, at Proctors Theatre. Kathy Hermance has again taken on the role of "Show Committee Chair" and will be recruiting help. There are many tasks associated with planning the show and there will be opportunities for all guild members to get involved.

Remember....this is YOUR guild. If you have any ideas or suggestions for what we do or how we do it, please let an officer or committee member know.

Yours In Stitches,....

*Kathy*



*We'd like to extend a warm welcome to new members: Deborah Kreifels and Kristen Lauster, who joined us in June.*

*For new members who may be confused by some of our activities, here is one activity description: Fat Quarters – are actually ½ of a half-yard of fabric, cut in the center to produce an 18 x 22 inch piece. Bring a fat quarter to the meeting, put it into the basket and put your name in the "Fat Quarter Bag." At the drawing, you may win ALL the fat quarters!*

**A check for DUES (\$25.00 ) for 2009-2010, made out to Q.U.I.L.T.S. may be sent to: Denise Duncan, 1277 Pembroke Ct., Niskayuna 12309**

## FALL SCHEDULE

**SEPTEMBER 3:** Kathie Greenwold will be presenting a lecture on “Quilts of the Adirondacks. There will be some old ones and some new ones, either made in the Adirondacks or inspired by the Adirondacks and upstate New York. Distinctive fabrics, quilting techniques, and batting styles will be discussed. along with some traditional pieced patterns that have had popularity in our part of the state. The guest fee for the evening will be \$5.00.

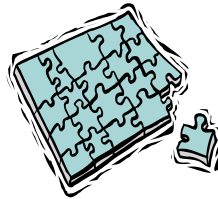
**Prep for Sew-In:** Please **sign up** at this meeting to bring various items needed for the Sew-In (sewing machine or ironing board and iron, **MOST NEEDED are “kits”** to make a quilt – explanation below)

**KITS:** An easy pattern with pieces cut and ready to sew **OR** an easy pattern with the right amount of fabric not cut yet **OR** 45” strips cut into 2 ½, 3 ½, and 6 ½ inch widths for the “Design Corner.” **ALSO NEEDED:** Fabric long enough for a backing; we estimate 3 ½ yards. You don’t have to bring **everything** – we are just pointing out what donations will really help the project. (I should mention here that we would like to encourage **BOY** colors)

Also remember to bring...

- Your hand-sewn name tag
- **Donation to Boutique Bounty Bag**
- Show and Tell projects

- Quilts for Northeast kids
- A friend or new member
- Fat Quarter – End of Summer



**Mystery Quilt Clue # 1 will be distributed**

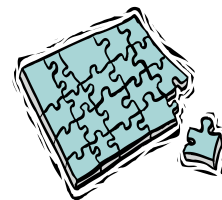
### OCTOBER 1: ANNUAL SEW-IN

The Annual Sew-In to make quilt tops for Northeast Parent and Child has been moved from November to October because Mary Hoover and Barbara Persing were not available to visit us during any month next year except November, and we really wanted to have them in our schedule.

In order to make our sewing time really productive, we plan to begin **EARLY** this year, and will provide dinner of pizza and salad at about 6 pm for all those sewing. Not everyone is able to arrive at the earliest time, but for those who are able to come, we will interrupt your work to feed you, restoring your strength for the rest of the evening. You can bring your own pattern (and fabric) or we can provide some patterns for easily pieced quilts. We expect to have “kits” for you to begin a quilt if you do not have your own.

The meeting schedule is:

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 4 PM  | Set up  |
| 4:30  | Begin sewing for all those who can come early |
| 6 PM  | Pizza and salad dinner                        |
| 6:30  | Brief meeting and Show and Tell               |
| 7 – 9 | Sewing!                                       |



Let’s see how many tops we can produce!

Remember to Bring:

- A kit to sew for NE
- Sewing machine, thread
- Your hand-sewn name tag
- “Show and Tell” projects

**Mystery Quilt Clue # 2  
Will be available**

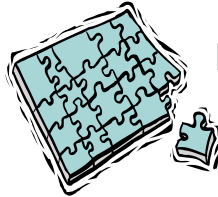
- **Donation to Boutique Bounty**
- A friend or new member
- Quilts for Northeast kids
- Fat Quarter – Harvest Time

## NOVEMBER 5, 2008 – MARY HOOVER AND BARBARA PERSING

Mary and Barbara have been sharing their love of quilting and needlework for a very long time. Their website explains that they learned to sew from their Mom when they were very young, and they have been sharing their ideas and talents for many years, despite being separated by geography. Mary once showed us her amazing Drunkard's Path quilts, and for the next year, we saw Drunkard's Path quilts at almost every meeting! This time, Mary and Barbara will inspire us with their Strata quilts, as taught in their book, StrataVarious . There will be a \$5.00 guest fee for the evening.

Remember to bring:

- Your StrataVarious book for Mary and Barbara to sign
- Your hand-sewn name tag
- "Show and Tell" projects
- **Donation to Boutique Bounty**
- Quilts for Northeast kids
- A friend or new member
- Fat Quarter – Frosty Days



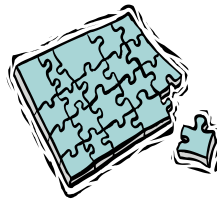
**Mystery Quilt Clue # 3  
Is here**

## DECEMBER 3: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Holiday Celebration is going to be a little different this year too. We will continue with our tradition of sharing desserts from our different family traditions and specialties (Last initials A-L are asked to bring their baked treasures). Instead of entertainment brought in for us, we are going to make our own entertainment! It's going to be Game Night. We will have a quilter's bingo and board games.

Also remember to bring...

- Gifts for women at City Mission and for children at NorthEast
- Your hand-sewn name tag
- **Donation to Boutique Bounty Bag**
- Quilts for Northeast kids
- "Show and Tell" projects
- A friend or new member
  - Fat Quarter – Family Memories



**Mystery Quilt**

**Clue #4**

## **DONATION TO BOUTIQUE BOUNTY**

Under the guidance of Betty Betz and Peg Pelange, the "Bounty Boutique" part of our Quilt Show has grown in stature and prominence, earning over \$2700 during our last event! They offered us the brilliant idea of bringing our contributions to each meeting, as we remember to do so, and thus have built a "stash beyond belief." Over \$2500 in inventory is already boxed and ready for the next show. Since our next Quilt Show will be in October 2010, we have more time to remember to bring our contributions and this will give more time for the Boutique staff to prepare them.

\*\*\*\*\***Please consider joining Peg as Co-Chair of the 2010 Boutique**, as Betty will be leaving the staff, creating a vacancy. The new Co-Chair will receive great training for taking over the chair position for the 2012 event, but will have plenty of assistance. Please call Peg at 371-5036 or e-mail at [ppalange@gmail.com](mailto:ppalange@gmail.com).

## ***Notes from the Program Committee....***

Submitted by Kathie Greenwold

★ Kathleen Morris and I will be taking over as Program Chairs and we've both inherited some terrific plans for upcoming programs and are working on some different and exciting ideas for the future as well. In this vein, we would really appreciate ideas you might have for upcoming programs and people you would like to see us have come to lecture and do workshops. You can send me an email at [lcgreeny@aol.com](mailto:lcgreeny@aol.com) or speak with Kathleen or myself at any meeting.

★ We plan to really strive to streamline our meetings so that our programs can be given the most time possible, so plan to be on time. Come early to get your raffle tickets and turn in your fat quarters and Block-of-the-Month blocks.

★ In addition, we are going to continue the **MYSTERY QUILT** with monthly installments beginning in September, and steps will follow for six months. As in the past, we will have copies of old steps available at each meeting, so if you miss one, you can catch up. This year – at the request of several members – we will have two options for the finished size of your quilt. Yardages and finishing will be included for both options, so you will not run out of fabric mid-stream. Happy Quilting ☆☆☆☆☆

★ **CHALLENGE QUILT**: Now I know why we studied geometry in 7<sup>th</sup> grade! We plan to continue the tradition of a year-long challenge for our members. This year's theme is Geometry. You can use any geometric shapes – remember that there are lots of odd shapes that would qualify, so even appliqué is possible using geometric figures. The challenge is to use at least two different geometric figures. Your fabric and color choices are your own, and you can do something traditional, a kit, or your own design. We want to display the finished quilts at our June meeting, so you have time to be creative!

### ★ **Round Robbins and Pairs Quilting for Service Quilts:**

Last year you were challenged to work within friendship groups and in pairs to produce strip quilts (buddy quilts), either for your own enjoyment or for service quilts - Northeast, Soldier Quilts, and other projects. We will continue this tradition this year, with a couple of twists.

A Round Robin is a quilt that is begun by one person and then passed on to another who adds either another strip the same width as the first or a border around a central medallion. The person who begins the quilt gets the end result to finish by adding borders and then quilting. If 6 people participate, you would work on 6 different quilts over the course of about 6 months, adding something to each and often an effort is made to keep the person who began the quilt from seeing the additions until the quilt is finished. If you need more information, talk to me! The strip versions of these quilts have made great service quilts.

Anyone who would like to be paired up, or who would like to participate in a larger Round Robin can do so. We will make our best efforts to find partners for you to work with. Speak to me at a meeting, call me (370-1667) or email me ([lcgreeny@aol.com](mailto:lcgreeny@aol.com)) and let me know you are interested in working in a pair or a group and whether you are interested in making quilts for yourself or for service. I will need your name, phone number, and/or email address to share with other potential group members. Then we can put you together with others who want to participate. Who knows - a friendship group might come out of this one project!

## *SOLDIER QUILT REMINDER*



Pat Terry has established a relationship with Pat Baker in Maryland, who handles our Quilts for Injured Soldiers. Some of us have been so glad to make these soldier quilts, but have not had a clear picture of where they go, and what happens when they get there. In response to these questions, Pat Baker sent Pat Terry a lovely explanation:

Our project began in 2003 and to date, we have received in excess of 8,300 quilts, afghans and fleece blankets. They have come from all over the U.S., Canada and Australia. In the beginning, our quilts were delivered to Andrews Air Force Base, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, all in the Washington, DC area, Fort Sam Houston Burn Center, Texas, Fort Stewart, GA and Camp LeJeune, NC. We have given 12 quilts out (by special request) to families of those who died during their tour in Iraq.

In 2006, we began giving only to Andrews Air Force Base, as the other local facilities had other groups contributing to them. We directed groups from Texas to send their quilts directly to Fort Sam Houston rather than mail them here and then for us to re-send them back to Texas.

Upon receipt of a box, it is logged in with the name, address, city and state of the donors on an alphabetical database not hooked to the internet. A letter is attached to each quilt about the project with donor's name, city and state; acknowledgement sent to donor by email or US mail. Quilts are counted and bagged for delivery. We have a liaison from the base that calls when they need the quilts and we deliver them. There is a set schedule of 3 flights per week coming in from Germany and more if needed. There can be as few as 9 or as many as 30 coming in each flight.

Over the years, the process that we followed has changed based on the Commander of the Base as well as the hospital Commander. Now, based on the HIPA laws and the new Commander, only hospital personnel and the Andrews AFB Red Cross volunteers (primarily retired military) can distribute the quilts to our injured coming in at Andrews. This is usually the first stop after coming from overseas. The injured are examined after being taken off the plane, assigned a room and then after they are settled, the Red Cross volunteers come in, greet them and offer them their choice of quilt, afghan or blanket. Those who are ambulatory usually congregate in a large room newly furnished for their comfort and are offered their choice of donated items. They are all informed of the project and that all of the items have been made especially for them. Being there in the beginning, I can tell you these men and women are genuinely touched that the American people are doing this for them. We do receive "thank you" from some of the injured or family members but not all. None of us do this for a thank you, but it sure makes you feel good when one comes! We will forward any thank you that comes in your name or that of your group.

We do not give out any info on anyone, other than our letter that tells the name of the quilter and or the organization, city and state. We encourage any donor to add a card or letter and feel free to give a full mailing address if you wish.

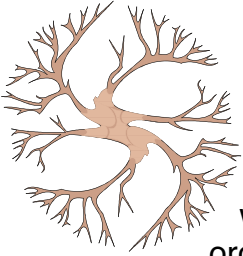


### *Milestones- What are the Milestones in your life?*

*We would like to acknowledge birthdays and special events in your life, if you would like to share them with us. As you come to our meeting, there will be a paper for you to write your birthday, anniversary, or other news, and Kathy will announce them during the business part of our evening. If a member has been ill or in the hospital, and has given permission to share that, we'd like to remember them also.*

# ***Don't Forget Your Roots***

## ***Part Three***



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.

“Don’t Forget your Roots” was meant to be a 3-Part series, but after talking with the major players, I know that I’ll have to continue with “Stories from Northeast” in the future.

Jan Huston, our guild treasurer, would like you all to have a copy of the form you should use when you submit a request for payment for anything you have purchased for the guild and need repayment for. Mail to Jan Huston, 59 Glenridge Rd, Scotia NY 12302

## QUILTS VOUCHER/PAYMENT REQUEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Payable To

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attn

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Payment Required (allow 5 days)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

**A copy of a bill, statement, receipt or other document substantiating the expense must be attached in order for a payment to be made.**

Show Expense

Operating Expense

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of Payment

**Reason for Payment and Description of Expense (Must be completed)**

**Check Disposition**

**Mail Check to:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Requestor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Treasurer's Use \_\_\_\_\_

ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

*Jan Huston wants to let us know that there is a letter/receipt for tax purposes for people who have donated a quilt or supplies to Northeast or to our guild.  
Please see Jan or call or email her if you need this letter.*



**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE!**

PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS CHANGE IN THE NEWSLETTER HEADING (ONE "S")

↻ ↻ ↻ ↻ Answers to children's science exam questions:

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.