



# HANDS ALL AROUND

Quilters United in Learning Together – Schenectady  
NOVEMBER 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:

As the temperatures get cooler, the days get shorter and the holiday season nears, many of us reflect back over the past year. While each passing year brings with it life's ups and downs, the one constant we have through it all is our love for quilting and the friendships that our hobby fosters. Like a good friend, quilting is our therapy which serves to get us through the bad times and also is our celebration of happy events. And like a good friend, quilting has included us in her world of friendship and the sharing of good feelings which stem from being involved with making quilts for those in need.

Thank you all for the time and resources you've put in to make our Guild's donation programs for both Northeast Kids and Soldiers projects a success. Keep up the good work!

I wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Yours In Stitches

*Kathy*



*We'd like to extend a warm welcome to new members Diane Hovey, Peggy Rinella, Diane Millson, and Kathy Kfanger, who recently joined Q.U.I.L.T.S. in October, and Maryann McDermott and Marcy Hess, who joined us in November.*

*For new members who may be confused by some of the names we call things, what do you think a Goodie Basket is?: Goodie Basket – Anything used in the art of sewing and quilting can be found on a special table prepared by Barb Sacawa and Sallie McGill. Their committee (of two) have prepared items of quilting interest to all of us in a special gift bag, and we can purchase tickets giving us a chance to choose one of these offerings. \$1.00 will give you three chances to win a prize.*

## Preparation for The February Meeting - Our Annual Tie-In

You need to know this information now to prepare for the Annual Tie-In:

If you are working on a top for Northeast Parent and Child, try to complete it and bring it in no later than the January meeting. If possible, we ask that you also include a prepared binding and backing fabric with the top. This will allow us sufficient time to determine how much batting is needed. Northeast has informed us that they are still in need of twin-sized quilts, especially for boys.

## DECEMBER MEETING - ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFTS

Q.U.I.L.T.S. is happy to support two agencies at holiday time this year – Northeast Parent and Child and the Schenectady City Mission. At our December meeting, we will be collecting hats, mittens and gloves for the children at Northeast and ladies' toiletries and personal care items for the women at the

City Mission's Family Life Center. In addition, we would like to include a collection of hats, gloves and athletic socks for the men who are guests of the City Mission. Feel free to contribute to any or all of these collections. **Please do not wrap these gifts** as the receiving agencies need to match the donations with the residents. . We wish to thank Kathleen Morris, who has coordinated our holiday gift program with the very appreciative City Mission.

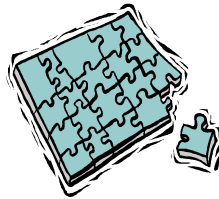
Also, this is a reminder that our Annual Holiday party is December 3, 2009. The meeting begins at 7pm and members whose last name starts with initials **A-L** are reminded to bring desserts to share.

## WINTER SCHEDULE

**JANUARY 7 2010:** The Judging Committee will present their findings and their final drafts of what will be used by the Show Committee to register quilts and by the judges to judge the quilts for our 2010 Show. They will also share with the group the Judge's Score Sheets and discuss changes to the show registration forms. Their many months of discussions centered on streamlining these documents to increase clarity and understanding of the complex process of judging a quilt. We are also planning to see some short demonstrations of some special quilting techniques, so don't miss it!

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 – Warm and Cozy

**Mystery Quilt Clue # 5 will be distributed**

## FEBRUARY 4 2010: ANNUAL TIE-IN

This has become one of our favorite evenings to spend together. In addition to the work preparing quilts for the children at Northeast, we have discovered new friendships as we've worked together to complete a beautiful quilt.

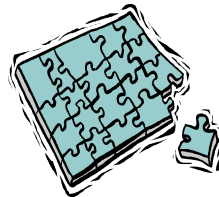
Please remember: **when you bring your own quilt-tops for the kids' quilts, Please bring fabric for backing and binding with them if you can.** The batting for the quilts and the cotton yarn will be provided, but each quilt top will need to have a matching backing and fabric for binding as well.

Many hands will make light work of tying the quilts. Please bring scissors, thimbles, large-eyed needles, needle threaders, etc.

## **Come Get Mystery Quilt Clue # 6**

Remember to Bring:

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



- A friend or new member
- Quilts for Northeast kids
- Fat Quarter – Hearts, Hearth & Home

## MARCH 4, – SEWING MACHINE MAINTENANCE

At our March meeting, Diana Marshall from Gloversville Sewing Center will talk about the ins and outs of machine maintenance, care of your sewing tools, and use of the right needles and threads. Her talk is not brand specific and will apply to your machine no matter what you have. In

keeping with the maintenance theme, we will also have Paul and Stephanie Naused from Shear Saavy in to sharpen our scissors for us! The cost will be \$10 per pair, but that price includes pinking shears!! They will take your shears apart, clean and oil them, and sharpen them for \$10 each pair. They do work for many beauty salons in our area. They will come a little early - about 5:30 - to get started and will work throughout the evening. If we run out of time, they said they will come on another evening to get to the people who didn't get their scissors done at the March meeting. So, plan to bring your good shears and pinking shears that evening! In February we will ask for a show of hands to get an idea of how many pairs of scissors to plan for.

**Remember to bring:**

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

### **MARCH 25 IS REALLY THE APRIL MEETING:**

Because our regular meeting time would have fallen during Holy Week of the Christian calendar and our speaker is able to accommodate us, our April meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25. There will be a guest fee of \$10.00.

Pam Druhen is a well known quilter and designer who hales from Northfield, Vermont. Many of you have probably seen her work at the Vermont Quilt Fest over the years. Her work reflects her closeness to the Vermont countryside and she specializes in landscapes. You can see her work at her website, [www.pameladruhenthreadscapes.com](http://www.pameladruhenthreadscapes.com) Her lecture on Thursday evening will be a trunk show of her current work and lecture about process and technique. On Friday we are offering her workshop, Vermont Windows. You will learn some basic landscape development techniques while creating a beautiful wall hanging that looks like you are looking out a window. You will be able to choose the season you want to focus on and Pam will guide your creation using her pattern. Registration for the workshop will begin at our December meeting. Be sure to sign up early to reserve your seat. After February, if there are still openings, we will open up registration to other area guilds.

**The workshop with Pamela, "Vermont Windows" will be held the next day, Friday, March 26. Space in the workshop is limited, so sign up now. Cost for this workshop is \$45. If you have any questions, contact Kathie Greenwold or Kathleen Morris.**

**Also remember to bring...**

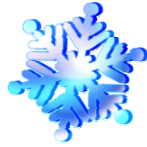
- Your hand-sewn name tag
- **Donation to Boutique Bounty Bag**
- Quilts for Northeast kids
- "Show and Tell" projects
- A friend or new member
- Fat Quarter – Showers and Sunshine

## **DONATION TO BOUTIQUE BOUNTY**

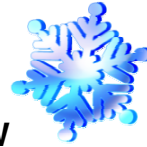
Under the guidance of Betty Betz and Peg Pelange, the "Bounty Boutique" part of our Quilt Show has grown in stature and prominence, earning over \$2700 during our last event! They offered us the brilliant idea of bringing our contributions to each meeting, as we remember to do so, and thus have built 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. However, June will be the last official collection date, so the team will have time to prepare all that's been collected.

\*\*\*\***Please consider joining Peg as Co-Chair of the 2012 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).



## WINTER BLUES SIT N' SEW



Once the holidays are over and the long, cold winter has really set in, what's there to do on a boring January weekend - watch football, clean your house, cook for your family, go shopping? NO!!! Well, how about getting together with some quilting friends and spending a day just sewing and socializing? Our first ever "Winter Blues Sit N' Sew" is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Northeast Parent and Child Society's administrative offices located at 530 Franklin Street (the "snow" date, in the event of inclement weather, is February 13<sup>th</sup>). Northeast has graciously offered to let us use their spacious and well-lit executive boardroom for our day of sewing. Feel free to drop in at anytime between 9am and 4pm.

This is an unstructured day of working on anything you wish. Consider bringing in your sewing machine to work on piecing a top or to machine quilt one. Or you might want to leave your machine home and catch up on hand work such as sewing on a binding, hand quilting or quilt tying. And if you just want to cross stitch, embroider or knit, that's OK too. It's your day to get out of the house, enjoy the company of other quilters and do whatever you want. Just bring your own materials, tools and supplies (we suggest you coordinate sewing supplies with your friends). We will have power extension cords available if needed. Coffee will be available, but since this is a "brown bag" event, please bring your own lunch, snacks and other beverages. There is a microwave oven and refrigerator available for our use. Plus, there are several local eateries within short walking distance which will be open if you choose to dine out.

Sign-ups for the Sit N' Sew, which is a *FREE* member event, will begin at the December guild meeting. Space is limited to 30, so members should sign up early. If you find out after you sign up that you cannot attend, please let Kathy Hermance know ASAP so someone else can fill your slot.



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

*If you would like to share any special news with us, we'd love to mention it during our meeting. As you arrive at the door, there will be a little form you can use to write about your special event: birth of a new family member, an anniversary, birthday.....there is a special time set aside during the meeting when these milestone announcements will be shared.*

### QUILTING IN GUATEMALA

By Lois Bena

I thought that I was one of the last people I know who would give up the sewing room to go to another country on a mission trip of any kind, but it felt like God really called me to consider this

one. I joined a dozen folks from my church to travel to a special place where one woman has tried to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children.

The school that our team visited is called Mi Refugio (My Refuge), and it was started over twenty years ago by a missionary named Kari, after she discovered families living in the Guatemala City dump. She herself lived in the dump with a family for a year, to gain the trust of the multitude, and then she began a school to try to help the children. Kari doesn't represent any particular denomination, but does teach Christian values in her school.

The campus I traveled to is a much nicer place than the original one near the dump, but the children Kari loves are still poor and always in need of encouragement. According to Kari, some of them are regularly abused, and there are no provisions in their world to help them – except school, where they learn that Jesus loves them, their teachers love them, and they can do something special in their lives through education. It was a privilege to be allowed to participate in an effort to support these children.

Volunteers come to Mi Refugio each year, bringing various skills with them. This year, there was a medical team who distributed vitamins, medication, and medical help, a dentist who treated many needy mouths, carpenters who constructed two buildings, and several teachers. Some years, the children are taught to sew simple garments in the large sewing room outfitted with Singer treadle machines. This year, the children learned how to make projects using quilting skills. What amazed us most was the skill the children had to operate the machines, and the prolific work of the boys in the classes.

We taught the log cabin pattern as a design, using only two colors for the students, and gave more options to the women who came to learn quilting after the students went home each day. We also offered the split rail design to the classes and to the women who joined us in the afternoon. It was impressive to see what was accomplished in only two weeks.



It was hard to leave the children. Many of them cried along with us on the last day of school, and although we all wanted to return home to our families, we were torn by the desire to stay with them. A few would have fit well into our suitcases. We worry about the older children being able to continue their education because their families need them to sell trinkets and food in the streets, but truly, all of them need our support and our prayers.

**REPEAT 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.**

### **MEETING CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Should we need to cancel a scheduled guild meeting due to inclement weather, we will make every attempt to post the cancellation notice on our webpage by 5:00 p.m. that day. Also, we will try to get email notices out to those members who have an email address listed with our guild. If you do not have access to the Internet or email and need to know if the meeting is cancelled, please call Kathy Wagner at 356-2452 or 369-3376, Kathy Hermance at 355-4209, or Lois Bena at 399-0486 between 5:00 and 6:00 that evening.