

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

December 2019

For This Meeting

December 4, 2019

Program: Holiday Potluck, and Mystery Fun & Games- bring a wrapped gift costing between \$5 and \$10 What we are going to do with those gifts is a mystery! Also, please bring non-perishable food items to donate to a local food pantry.

Vendor: Crosscut Sewing of Melrose could not be with us in November due to illness, but she plans to come to our December meeting!

Show 'n' Tell: Yes

Fat Quarter: Fat Quarter color for December is **Black** and **White** (Remember to bring an extra fat quarter to give to Louise, Dana or Sally N. for the raffle basket at our next show.)

And just a friendly reminder: a fat quarter measures 18" by half the width of your fabric, typically 18" x 22" (assuming your fabric is 44" wide). This is NOT the same as a standard quarter yard, which measures 9" x 44".

Refreshments: All of us! If you did not sign up at the November meeting to bring something and would like to know what to bring, contact Barbara Martinson. She can tell you if any of the categories (Appetizers, Entrees, Salads, Desserts or Drinks) are sparse and need more signups.

Creative Quiltworks: Log Cabin Chicken or Rooster Pincushion

President's Message: Martha Mazeika

Editor's note: The President's message was not available at press time.

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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 current checkbook balance as of November 8, is \$13,675.11. All expenses have been covered and this figure reflects the \$603.00 deposited on Nov. 7.

Members donated a generous \$514.00 to the Charity project led by Gretchen, Louise and Sally, who purchase items to stuff Holiday themed pillowcases that go to children in need.

Every effort is made by the executive board to be responsible, transparent & accountable to guild members to ensure your dues bring you great value and enjoyment.

Guild members who expect to be reimbursed for purchases made for the guild 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 Executive Board meeting; minutes are always available from Dottie for your viewing pleasure at every guild meeting.

Membership: Sally Nimblett

In November, 81 members signed in, including two of our newest members, Sue Fair and Jean Karam-welcome!

Thank you, everyone, for your donations of money to be used to purchase items to stuff the holiday pillowcases. I'm sure we will make many children very happy.

If you have a change of contact information (address, phone, email), please see me and get a change-of-information slip. We want to keep our membership list up to date to make sure you are informed!

I have patterns for pillowcases and name badges with me at every meeting; if you need one, see me.

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

For the **Holiday Potluck Supper:**

Everyone please bring your potluck appetizers, salads, main dishes, and desserts. Remember to bring necessary serving utensils for your dish. Also, don't forget to label all items that you wish to get back.

If you did not get a chance to sign up at the November meeting, **all contributions are still welcomed.** If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks!
Barbara

The sign-up sheet for all other meetings 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. And don't forget to pick up any containers or plates after each meeting.

"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.

- You may bring in any quilting-related items that you no longer want: patterns, magazines, notions, and fabric (quilting cotton, wool, silk- fabrics used for quilting- **no** upholstery fabrics and those generally used for garments), etc.
- Anyone may take items from the free table, whether or not you brought anything in.
- Make sure nothing is left behind. Please take home anything you brought in that was not taken by others. The table should be empty ten minutes after the meeting ends.

Thanks for your help so we can keep this program going!

Program Committee: Gail Dwyer and Dottie Macomber

From Gail: For this meeting, you are asked to bring a wrapped gift costing between \$5 and \$10 that anyone in the guild would like to receive (so sewing or quilting items would be appropriate). We will be doing some Fun & Games (it's a mystery right now- you'll find out in December!).

Note from Dottie: Mr. & Mrs. Wright are on vacation and will not be making an appearance this year. Word has it that they are in Hawaii for the winter. Lucky them!

From Dottie: Thank you to the 9 people who took more **UFO quilt tops** to finish. I have 9 more that I will be bringing to the December meeting; see me if you would like to finish one. Some are full-size lap quilts and others are smaller and need a border or two added to them. This is a good way to fulfill your annual charity quilt donation requirement. Also, these would be perfect for practicing your own machine or hand quilting. If you want to practice ruler work or free-motion quilting but don't want to do it on a top you pieced, here's a chance to practice and complete a quilt that will comfort someone else. You may also hand quilt or tie the quilt. There is no deadline for completing these quilts, but **remember** to report to me with your finished quilt before you turn it in to Gretchen and the Charity Donations committee so I can take a photo to send to the group of seniors in NH who donated all these tops to us AND so I can give you your UFO charm!

Also from Dottie: If anyone wants to pay their balance for the March getaway, I will bring my list to the December meeting to let you know what you owe. Otherwise, all balances are due by the January 8th guild meeting.

And yet ANOTHER announcement from Dottie: In January, when we have our regular annual auction where you can bring in a bag of quilting and sewing stuff that you no longer want and bid on bags that others have brought in, we will also have **silent auction** items. This feature of our auction did well this past January, so if we get enough larger items, we will do this again in January 2020. The types of items we had donated for the silent auction last year were stand-alone, larger items like organizer totes, two portable ironing tables made from TV trays (the folding kind on legs), a sewing room clock, children's reading pillows, and a vintage quilt top. **If you have larger items you would like to donate to the silent auction** portion of the annual auction, please let me know ASAP so I can prepare enough

bidding sheets. I'd like to limit the silent auction items to about a dozen, certainly no more than 15 depending on the size. So far, we have a floor model OTT lamp.

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

On Saturday, Nov 30th at 10 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church on Summer St. in Saugus, we will be stuffing the holiday pillowcases for children in need. If you signed up at the November meeting, please arrive by 10:00. Park around back of the church in the parking lot; you can use the door to your left when you face the back of the building. There is also an accessible entrance there and an elevator that leads to the basement where the stuffing will take place. **This is a great way to meet people and participate in an activity that will make so many children happy at holiday time.** If we get a dozen or so volunteers, the pillowcases are stuffed in about an hour!

Sixty-two pillowcases were donated at the November meeting; we probably have enough holiday-themed ones so that we can even set aside a few to start next year's collection! Thank you to everyone who donated. And remember, we also collect patriotic-themed cases for Quilts of Valor and non-holiday cases for the kids who attend the Hole in the Wall Camp, so you may bring those in any time.

Note: Donation quilts and pillowcases will not be collected at the December meeting, as Gretchen will not be there. Please save your quilts and pillowcases for the January meeting.

Please bring in non-perishable food items to the December meeting. A representative of the local food pantry will collect the food at our December meeting **ONLY**. As with any food pantry donation, please make sure that the item is within its expiration date.

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support of our charitable donation projects. -Gretchen

Creative Quiltworks Committee: Kristin Callahan & Ellen Moore

Bring in your chicken/rooster pincushions to the December meeting and be sure to vote for your favorite. Ribbons are awarded to the top three vote-getters!

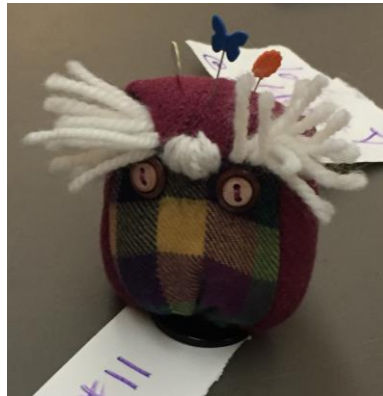
The Owl pincushion project was certainly popular; there were 12 entries from which to choose. Thank you to all who participated by making owls and by voting! The winners of the voting for favorite owl pincushions at the November meeting were:

1st place: Judy Massakowski, entry #4

2nd place: Donna Cordisco, entry #10

3rd place: Joyce Rodenhiser, entry #5





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

The quilt show committee will be meeting at the Saugus Public Library on Wednesday, November 20 from 6:00-7:30 pm. As a result of this meeting, there will likely be some show-related announcements at the December guild meeting. Stay tuned!

Secretary Report: Dottie Macomber

Printed reports containing the full minutes of all previous meetings for the current guild year, both general membership and executive board, are available for your perusal at monthly guild meetings.

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

Dana Giunta thanks everyone for their cards and well-wishes for a speedy recovery from her broken pelvis. She appreciates the thoughtfulness of everyone in the guild.

Merle Gordon also wishes to thank everyone for their cards and calls while she has been recovering from shoulder surgery. She appreciates everyone's good wishes; they cheered her up immensely.

Member News: Dottie Macomber

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.

Volunteer Opportunity! The New England Quilt Museum in Lowell needs you! Volunteers are needed for many jobs, but especially to keep the library open when the museum is open for exhibits. You get to meet people from all over the world; you answer phone queries and talk to visitors to the library; you check books out to museum members; you accept donations of quilting books, patterns and magazines; you get to see what is available for purchase in the library's yard sale (and can buy items yourself); you record sales from the yard sale; and you get to read and borrow thousands of quilting books! What could be better?! Volunteers set their own hours; some work every week (as I do on Fridays), others work every other week, and some volunteer once a month or when needed. Some work all day (10:00-4:00) while others volunteer 10:00-1:00 or 1:00-4:00. It's up to you! Volunteers are especially needed for weekends, although once you are trained, you can pick any time slots and days where a volunteer is needed. Sign up with a friend and volunteer together! You do have to undergo a couple training sessions, conducted by me on Fridays when I am there; for most volunteers, a couple sessions is enough but if you need more time in order to feel comfortable with the various tasks, that's fine; I'll work with you until you are comfortable and confident.

So, if you're looking for a fun, quilting volunteer gig, one day a month or more, see me (Dottie) or call me at 781-932-3602 to schedule your first training session on a Friday!

In an attempt to get more people to read the newsletter so they can stay more well-informed and get the most out of every guild meeting and activity, I am going to try something new, at least for the remainder of this guild year. In every newsletter between now and June, I am going to hide a "secret" word or phrase. If you find this secret word, when you come to the next guild meeting, write the code on a piece of paper, which I will provide, along with your first and last names. During my monthly announcements, I will pull a name and if that person has the correct secret word, then he/she gets a small prize. (These prizes are from my personal stash of brand new, unused, fun items; no guild funds are being used.)

So here we go: the "secret" phrase for December is **Sunbonnet Sue**. And I thank you for reading all the way to the end of the newsletter!

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary