

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

January 2019

*****For This Meeting*****

January 2, 2019

Program: Annual Auction

Show 'n' Tell: NO

Fat Quarter: [Blue](#)

Refreshments: Bernadette Reilly-Smorawski, Sally Clapp, Janice Moore, Carmen Arnone, Dottie Macomber, Pam Moriarty, Ruth Cameron, Linda Talanian, Donna Cormier (water)

Creative Quiltworks: The fifth and sixth blocks for a 12-block "fidget quilt" or mat!

President's Message: Martha Mazeika

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the end of 2018 and the start of 2019! As a guild, we have accomplished many things in 2018. Along with our many meetings (some featuring our own members), ribbon winners at the Topsfield Fair, a great quilt show in October, and welcoming new members, it has been a great year!

In January, we have our annual auction. Bring your bags of things you don't want, as they will be a treasure to another quilter. It is a fun night! See below for details.

Thank you for a great start to the year, a great show, and welcoming meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. I am looking forward to the second half with the auction, speakers, raffles, the Get-Away, and to learn and share with you all!

Happy New Year!

Always here to listen, talk, discuss, and answer questions.

See you all on January 2nd!!!

Martha

(413)250-5449

marthamazeika@gmail.com

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

Vice-President's Report: Gail Dwyer

Please talk to me if you are interested in volunteering for the next two years (Gail Dwyer 617-846-6551). It really is very rewarding to make decisions about our guild and is a great way to get to know more members.

A lot of us have already decided to be nominated again!! Martha has decided to run again for President; Carmen for Treasurer; Sally Nimblett for Membership and Member-at-Large; Dottie for Secretary; and I am running again for Vice President. This does not mean that someone else can't run for one of those offices; in fact, we would welcome new people getting involved, and that means new members as well as veteran members who have never run for a position before. Gee, if two people want the same position, we'll have a real election in May!!

As of this writing, we need someone to run for Program Committee chair. While this can be a challenging position, it is also one of the more satisfying ones: you get to influence the speakers, monthly activities, and other programs we have!! Are you someone who knows of a speaker you would like to see at the guild? Do you have ideas for monthly meeting activities? Would you like to work with others in the guild to decide what activities we do? This would be a great position for you! If there are two of you who would like to run as co-chairs, we can do that, too, although only one person would have voting rights at Executive Board meetings. Also, know that extensive help and advice will be available for someone who wants to take on this position. Dottie has been Program Chair several times and can work with you on ideas and can give you a sense of what we have already had and what has worked and what hasn't. There is a great list of speakers and teachers that is provided each year by the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, and the museum holds an annual event for Program Chairs called "Meet the Teachers", where you can listen to short presentations from 20 or so teachers to get a sense of what they can offer. (If you've never been to Lowell and don't know how to get there, Dottie is a member of the program committee and can be the second person from our guild to attend- the museum allows 2 people from each guild to attend this event- and will even drive there- you just get to her house in Woburn!) Several of our meetings are already planned each year: we usually have our Auction in January, our Ice Cream Social in June, and our Potluck and Gift Swap in December, so that is three months you would not need to plan activities for (unless you wanted to change things up!). The Program Committee is given an annual budget, and you can use that money to hire speakers and/or teachers for workshops, to help fund a bus trip to a show or for a shop hop, or to buy materials for some other activity. The sky's the limit as far as what you can propose for activities, so if you have some new ideas for activities for our guild, please consider running for this important position. Without a Program Chair, we won't have any programs. We need you!!

Treasurer's Report: Carmen Arnone

The working balance as of Dec. 6, 2018 is \$19,071.25. Quilt show related receipts are still coming in; after all these are received and reimbursed, a final accounting of the show's profits will be prepared and presented to the guild.

Guild members who are expecting to be reimbursed are requested to put receipts in an envelope, which I can provide if necessary. Please write your name on the envelope, amount due and indicate the category your expenses are related to.

For example: Molly Member
 Hospitality supplies
 \$ 13.76

***receipts placed in the envelope

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 recently began firming up a budget for each area of guild activities; please try to stay within your budget.

Membership: Sally Nimblett

Great attendance at our December meeting; 77 members signed in! I guess we do like to eat!

Some people have still not picked up their guild membership cards. Sally has them at the front table where you check in. These cards may be needed in order to receive discounts at quilt shops that give discounts to guild members (although it seems that these are becoming fewer and farther between).

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 give us an idea of how many handouts to prepare for meetings.

Refreshment Committee: Barbara Martinson & Kathy Connors

The following members have signed up to bring snacks to the January meeting: Bernadette Reilly-Smorawski, Sally Clapp, Janice Moore, Carmen Arnone, Dottie Macomber, Pam Moriarty, Ruth Cameron, Linda Talanian, and Donna Cormier (water).

The sign-up sheet is always on the snack table so folks can sign up for upcoming meetings.

-Barbara

Program Committee: Joyce Rodenhiser, Janice Moore & Dottie Macomber

Each January our guild has an auction! For those who wanted them, we provided large plastic bags into which can go all the quilting supplies you do not want any more. (You may also use regular brown paper grocery bags.) Fat quarters, patterns, scraps, orphan blocks (these are blocks that have been sewn but maybe they are extras that do not fit into your quilt plans after all), extra stitch rippers, threads, UFOs, etc. (Please do **not** include magazines.) You do not have to purchase anything new for this activity! This goes on the theory of one quilter's extras are another quilter's treasures. After the holidays you may want to clean your closet or sewing room to make room for new projects! Have a glass of wine while you do it, it might be easier that way!! But I digress...

The live auction will be conducted as follows: anyone who wishes to bid, or who thinks they might want to bid, will pick up an auction "paddle" from Sally when you check in. This paddle will have your bidder number on it and will help the treasurer record who makes the winning bid on each item. You may "run a tab" during the auction and settle up at the end. When you bring your bags in to the meeting, place them on the stage; each will then have a number attached to it. As you look through the bags before the start of the auction, make note of the numbers of the bags which interest you. This will help move the auction along once we get started, as the auctioneer will not have to remove all the items from the bag but can just call out the number of the bag that is up for bid.

Regardless of which kind of bags you use, please list the contents of your bag on an index card to make it easier for the auctioneer and staple that card to the bag. This list does not have to be itemized but can be more general, such as "6 patterns, a bag of scraps, and miscellaneous notions". If there is something unique in your bag which you think will generate more interest and higher bids, such as a quilt top or an expensive notion or other item, be sure to note that. Thank you.

May you all enjoy the holidays and have a safe winter.

-Joyce

Auction addendum from Dottie:

This year at our auction, in addition to the live auction, we will have some **silent auction** items. Our guild was given 4 wooden turned (as with a lathe) bowls made by Peter Ruggeri, husband of long-time guild member Ruth Ruggeri who passed away earlier this year. Peter generously donated the bowls during our quilt show and said we could do what we wanted with them. To give all members a chance to own one of these bowls, which are suitable for displaying pine cones, ornaments, etc., each bowl will be offered in a silent auction. For those of you who may not know how a silent auction works, each bowl will have a piece of paper with it. If someone wants that bowl, you will write down your starting bid on the paper. Everyone else can see what you bid and can outbid you by writing their name and a higher bid under yours. This will continue throughout the evening; you may check the current bid and write down a new bid at any time until the live auction is finished and we declare the silent auction closed; at that point, whoever has the highest bid written down will be the winner of that item and will pay the treasurer. Peter seemed pleased with the idea of donating the funds raised to the New England Quilt Museum in Ruth's name, so the funds raised with the silent auction will be so donated. (Please note: one of the bowls has a slight crack in it. I have not attempted to glue this; the winner can do so if she/he pleases, but the bowl is still beautiful and functional for display purposes.)

Some of you may remember the VERY large donation of fabrics and other sewing items that I received in the spring on behalf of the guild from a woman in Melrose who was cleaning out her mother's very large home prior to selling it. Some of you came to my house and took some of the fabric and other items from the MANY boxes we set out in our garage! The woman who donated all this sewing stuff was also interested in a memorial donation to the museum in her mother's memory, so I have saved out a few items from that large donation, and those will also be offered in the silent auction format. There is a vintage quilt top and matching backing fabric made from 30's-40's fabrics, which will constitute one silent auction item, and there is a stack of beautiful and unusual ethnic fabrics which will constitute another silent auction item (I understand that the mother did a lot of world traveling). I think there is also a bag containing a large number of buttons (interested, Louise Nazzaro?!?) and other notions- it's been a while since I put these things in my attic, but I believe I saved that out for the silent auction as well! The proceeds from these items will also be donated to the New England Quilt Museum in the mother's name. As with the bowls, these items will be open for silent-auction bidding throughout the evening.

We have filled all 48 spots for the March Getaway weekend! For those who owe a balance, I will email you before the January meeting to let you know how much you still owe so you can bring your payment to the meeting. If you will not be at the meeting, please mail your check to me, made out to HQG, at 9 Fletcher Rd, Woburn, MA 01801. A month or so before the getaway, I will send out information on the schedule for the weekend, a list of quilt shops in the area, and a list of some of the restaurants in the area for those who want to go out to eat for lunch (remember, lunch is not included in our weekend package). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (781-932-3602 or mcandmac@comcast.net).

- Dottie

We would like to remind people to please refrain from talking during the business portion of our meeting and during speakers' presentations. Some of our members have hearing difficulties, and chatter from others makes it even more difficult to hear. **Be considerate of the speakers and your fellow guild members and do your socializing before & after the meeting and during the break.**

And another reminder: **PLEASE refrain from wearing strong fragrances** (perfumes, scented lotion, etc.) to our meetings so all can enjoy themselves without having difficulty breathing. Thank you!

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

The donation committee has distributed all the stuffed pillowcase donations to Home for Little Wanderers and the Department of Children and Families. I want you to know how much appreciated these gifts are. I know from speaking with a friend of mine from HLW that the outreach workers this year were only allowed a quota of 3 gifts for their entire caseload (15-20 clients) so this especially helped them be able to reach more children. Some therapists were reporting some of their clients had last year's pillowcases on their beds.

Also thank you for the food pantry items. Your generosity is most appreciated.

A reminder to everyone we will be collecting patriotic pillowcases for Quilts of Valor. See more details below.

We also donated approximately 20 pillowcases to The Hole in the Wall Camp via Kathy Connors.

Our next pillowcase drive is for Quilts of Valor. Please make pillowcases from patriotic red, white and blue fabrics. These pillowcases are used to put the quilts in when presenting them to the veterans. This tradition started when Quilts of Valor were presented to wounded veterans in combat areas; the quilts were put over them as they were sent to military hospitals and their belongings were put in the pillowcases. Now, even when quilts are presented to retired service members, they are given with a presentation pillowcase.

We would like to build an inventory of donation quilts of all types and sizes, so please keep them coming after December. Some years we only get about 30 quilts. Please try to donate a quilt every year. It does not have to be elaborate. You can always use a fabric panel and add borders to it. Simple all-over quilting is fine.

Gretchen is reminding everyone of a quilt retreat coming up February 22-24, 2019. This is not a Hammersmith guild event; it is offered by the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center in Greenfield, NH. See the website at <http://www.bchcenter.org/quiltingretreat> for details and to register. Evidently there are several quilting areas at the center, so if you do sign up, say that you are with the Merrimack Holy Quilters to be together with other Hammersmith folks. There are several lodging options; prices are all-inclusive for 3 days, 2 nights and include 6 meals. Here's a nice feature: if you donate a quilt to the center, you stay free!! Speak to Gretchen and/or check out the website for more details.

Creative Quiltworks Committee: Kristin Callahan, Ellen Moore & Lynda Galvin

The CQW project for January is to make Blocks 5 & 6 for a 12-block fidget quilt or mat. The directions are below. (These directions as well as directions for previous months' blocks are on the website under the Newsletter tab.)

Creative Quilt Works- due January 2, 2019

Fidget Mat Challenge Quilt
Month 3

Block 5: Belt Buckle

Stabilize fabric with a low loft fusible fleece:
Cut fleece into 6-inch squares.
Cut fabric for background into 6-inch squares.
Fuse together.

Find an old belt and rob it of the buckle. What about buckles from overalls?
Use your imagination.
Make more than one.

Block 6: Velcro

Stabilize fabric with a low loft fusible fleece:
Cut fleece into 6-inch squares.
Cut fabric for background into 6-inch squares.
Fuse together.

Secure rough side to the background fabric and one end of the soft side only, again use your imagination.
Make a few of these too!

This is a seven-month project. For each of six months, we will make 2 blocks for a fidget mat. On the seventh month, we will get the instructions to complete our mats. If you make several blocks each month, at the end of the project you can make several mats. We plan to donate them to a local nursing home or memory care center. If you have a suggestion of such a place that could use fidget mats, please let Kristin Callahan know.

If you've never heard of fidget mats or fidget quilts or would like to see what one can look like, do a Google search. These are typically used with children with autism or with dementia patients to give their hands something to do; this often has a calming effect.

While your fidget quilt will not be completed until after the seventh month, bring your two blocks in each month; we will vote on our favorites in the same way that we have been voting on other Creative Quiltworks projects. There will be ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Everyone is eligible to vote for their favorite, so be sure to check out the projects at each monthly meeting and vote for your favorite.

Please pick up directions for each project from Ellen or Kristin. The directions for the current and most recent projects are also available on the website under the Newsletter tab. Directions for older CQW projects can be found on the Archives page.

The winners of the viewers' choice voting for December's zipper and ribbon & lace blocks were: 1st place, Joyce Rodenhiser ; 2nd place, Ellen Moore; and 3rd place, Linda Reppucci. (No photo of Joyce's blocks; they were camera-shy!)



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, will be available for your perusal at monthly guild meetings. Minutes of the Executive Board meetings will also be posted on the website under the Newsletter tab.

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 or has had a death in the family, please let me know so I can send them a card on behalf of the guild: 781-932-3602 or mcandmac@comcast.net

Member News: Dottie Macomber

As always, if anyone submits quilts to shows or fairs, or if you have any other quilty 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. Let us celebrate your quilty news with you!

News Around the Guilds and at the New England Quilt Museum, and Other Events

NEW ENGLAND QUILT MUSEUM, 18 Shattuck Street, Lowell, MA

Through December 30, 2018:

FABRIC COLLAGE QUILTS OF SUSAN CARLSON, THE SATIRICAL ART OF SALLEY MAVOR, and EXPLORATIONS I:
Inside the Quilt Artist's Studio

HOURS:

MAY - DECEMBER

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 - 4

Closed Mondays (From January through April, the museum is also closed on Sundays.)

The museum will be closed for building maintenance the first two weeks of January and will reopen on January 15th.

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary