

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

January 2020

For This Meeting

January 8, 2020 NOTE THE DATE!!!! (second Wednesday)

Program: Annual Auction: live and silent auctions- bring a bag of stuff you want to donate and bring your cash or check to pay for any items you win!

Show 'n' Tell: No

Fat Quarter: Fat Quarter theme for January is Polka Dots (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: Beverly McGrath, Merle Gordon, Joyce Rodenhiser, Elaine Cobucci, Connie Fitzgerald, Margarita Blyumkina, Lori Sue McNeely, Judy Massakowski

Creative Quiltworks: Crazy Pincushion (directions will be emailed to members and will be on the website)

President's Message: Martha Mazeika

Greetings and Happy New Year!

There are many times I say Happy New Year as I have different new year starts, such as the calendar year, the academic year, fiscal year, guild year etc. I don't have a favorite but I always like to celebrate the start as it is a fresh beginning. I hope you all have a wonderful start to 2020!

The Executive Board met in November. We talked about changing some responsibilities of certain positions and challenges regarding dues, which I will talk about next. The changes discussed will be forwarded on to the Bylaws Review Committee. We will have more information on this in January and February.

The other discussion was regarding returning members who do not pay dues by the June 30th deadline. Members were paying dues this year until the November meeting, which is unacceptable and inefficient. Starting July 1st, those returning members who have not paid dues will be dropped from the membership list. To rejoin, members will pay a monthly late fee of \$5 for each meeting (not counting the summer Sit 'n' Sews) until dues are paid. I know this is a change and I welcome emails and phone calls regarding this change.

Always here to listen, talk, discuss, and answer questions.
See you all on January 8th!

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

Treasurer's Report: Carmen Arnone

The current checkbook balance as of the December 4th meeting was \$17,838.25.

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!

Membership: Sally Nimblett

In December, 60 members signed in, but there seemed to be more than that present! Just a reminder 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 or months are the most popular, and it gives us an idea of how many handouts to prepare for meetings.

We now have 116 members! Everyone have a great holiday; we'll see you next year!

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.

Refreshment Committee: Barbara Martinson & Kathy Connors

The following members have signed up to bring refreshments in January: Beverly McGrath, Merle Gordon, Joyce Rodenhiser, Elaine Cobucci, Connie Fitzgerald, Margarita Blyumkina, Lori Sue McNeely, and Judy Massakowski.

If you have yet to bring snacks to a meeting, please sign up; we especially need some more people for the February, March and May meetings. The sign-up sheet 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 9-10 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

January's program is our **annual auction** of quilting and sewing items. Clean out your sewing room, find items you no longer want, and bag them up to be auctioned off to the highest bidder! You know what they say about 'one man's trash'! You clean some unwanted things out of your sewing room, and you get to bid on stuff that others have brought in. The guild gets the proceeds, you get a cleaner sewing room, and you might win some new-to-you stuff! This is a fun night and a win-win for everyone! Magazines and books do not sell well and are heavy for people to take home so please don't fill a bag with just these, but fabric (yardage, precuts, scraps), notions, UFOs, kits, and novelties like sewing room clocks or coffee mugs all sell well. **Please bring your donated items in a bag!**

Each member may bring **one bag** of stuff for the auction. If you picked up a large clear bag at the December meeting, you may use that; a clear bag makes the items inside easier to see when everyone is previewing the bags before the auction begins. If you don't have a clear bag, a brown paper grocery bag works well, too. In either case, **please include on the outside of your bag a list of the items inside** to make the auctioneer's job easier. You don't have to list every single item, but you might say something like "jar of buttons, small container of notions, 3 yds. of Christmas fabric, asst'd fat quarters, and six quilt patterns."

Before the auction, when you sign in, you will receive a "paddle" with your bidding number. If you bring in a bag, please put it on the stage, where volunteers will be putting a number on each bag. As you go to preview the bags, you can write on the back of your "paddle" the numbers of any bags that are of particular interest to you to assist you in your bidding during the auction.

In addition to our live auction, we will have a number of items up for bid in a **silent auction**. You can write down your bids for these items any time during the evening. Bidding for these items will end right after the live auction ends, and the winners of these items will be announced then. So far, we have the following 11 silent auction items:

1) Floor model OTT light on wheels and 2) Dual head Daylight Company table lamp- Each head lights and dims independently of the other, and the two heads can be moved apart to spread light over a wider area or moved close together to concentrate the light on a smaller area.



Items 3), 4) and 5) Padded ironing tables made from folding "TV" trays- very handy for retreats or to place next to your sewing machine at home



We have three of these tables! All three tables have the same fabric.

6) Basket of 35 fat quarters of 1930's reproduction fabrics and 7) Basket of 50 fat quarters of Civil War reproduction fabrics



8) A set of three seasonal table runner kits, all fabric needed including backing and binding, total retail value \$130



9) Antique sewing-related items: many flannel tobacco premiums- flags and Native American “rug” designs from the very early 1900’s, often made into quilts; a stereoview card of a little girl sewing entitled “Patchwork”; and six framed early trade cards (copyright on one is 1881) for sewing machines and thread.



10) Bundle of 4 Judy Niemeyer foundation-piecing patterns, total retail value well over \$200



11) Wooden quilt display rack



Note: Bidding for both the live auction and the silent auction should be in whole dollar amounts only. We will accept cash or checks, so come prepared!!

Thank you to Gail Dwyer (our own Mrs. Claus!) and Bev McGrath for the fun trivia activity in December. (I think that John Balliro has still not gotten over the fact that quilting was not invented in Italy!)



Gail delivered the gifts with lots of good cheer!

From Dottie: Thank you to the people who took more **UFO quilt tops** to finish. I have 2 more tops left; I will bring them to the January meeting. See me if you would like to finish one. Remember, completing and turning in one of these quilts fulfills 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!

And thank you to the following members who completed and turned in their UFO quilts and received their UFO charm: Carmen Arnone, Jean Balliro, Gail Dwyer, Lucille McCarthy and Joyce Rodenhiser.



Also from Dottie: If you are going on the March 19-22, 2020 getaway weekend, your balance is due by the January 8th guild meeting. If you would like to know your balance so you can bring the check all made out, just email me. mcandmac@comcast.net

The "secret" word for January is **Thimble**. (If you don't know what this is or why it is here, read the rest of the newsletter to find out!)

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

One hundred pillowcases were “stuffed” on November 30th! A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to make this happen, from making pillowcases, to donating money for the gifts to go in them, to making quilts to accompany the pillowcases, and to being the “elves” who stuffed the pillowcases. The stuffed pillowcases and quilts will be donated to The Home for Little Wanderers and to the Department of Children and Families. Thanks again, everyone!

Recognizing that larger quilts come with a larger price tag, the donation committee is going to ask for only baby quilts from now on. It has been too much to ask for larger quilts, given the expense. Of course, if anyone wishes to make and donate a larger quilt, we will certainly be able to find a home for it!

We will continue to collect patriotic pillowcases for Quilts of Valor, juvenile pillowcases for the Hole in the Wall Camp and other charities and, of course, holiday pillowcases for next December.

Thanks again to everyone for continuing to support our charity projects.

Creative Quiltworks Committee: Kristin Callahan & Ellen Moore

Bring in your Crazy Pincushion to the January meeting and be sure to vote for your favorite. Ribbons are awarded to the top three vote-getters! Directions will be on the website under the Newsletter tab or are included with this newsletter for those who have the newsletter mailed to them.

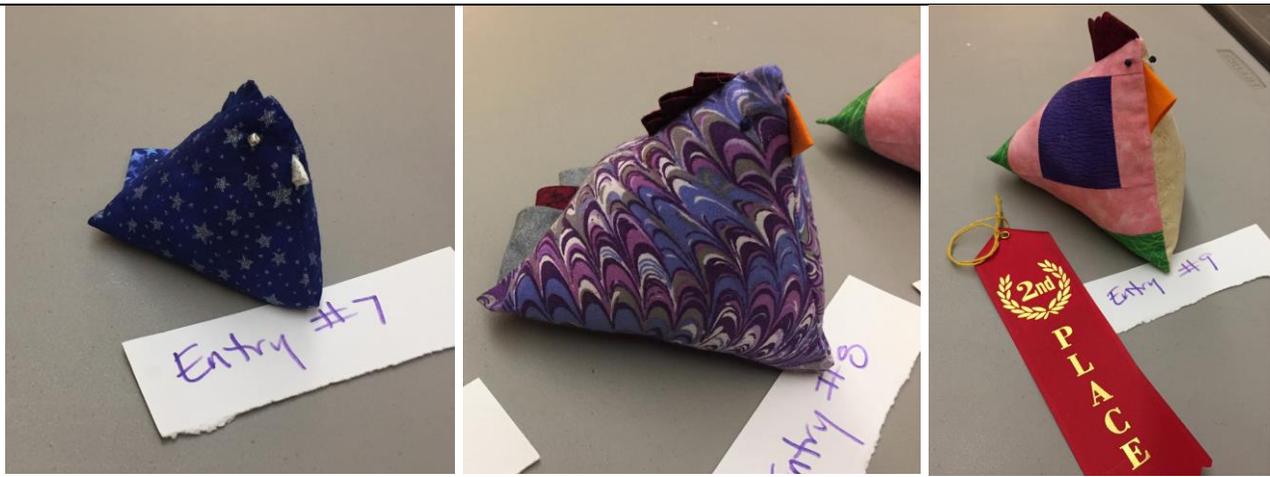
Nine very cute chicken pincushions were made for the December challenge. The winners of the voting for favorite chicken at the December meeting were:

1st place: Holiday chicken #1 by Kathy Connors

2nd place: Jean Balliro for chicken #9

3rd place: A tie between Kristin Callahan for chicken #2 and Ellen Moore for chicken #3





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

The quilt show committee met on November 20th. As a result of this meeting, we firmed up the procedure for signing up for raffle basket groups; you will hear more about this from Louise Nazzaro and Sally Nimblett at the January guild meeting. We also considered adding two more categories for Committee's Choice voting and ribbons; however, after some discussion, we decided to keep the voting categories as follows:

Large Rosette Ribbons (6):

- Best Large Quilt (perimeter 321" to 440")
- Best Medium Quilt (perimeter 241" to 320")
- Best Small Quilt (perimeter no more than 240")
- Best Other item (wearables, table runners, bags, etc.)
- Best Challenge item (theme- "Walk Around the Block"), perimeter no more than 80"
- Best Quilt by a Child Age 12 and under

Smaller ribbons for Technical Merit (10):

- Best Machine Applique
- Best Hand Applique
- Best Machine Embroidery
- Best Hand Embroidery
- Best Traditional Machine Piecing
- Best Hand Piecing (includes Traditional piecing and EPP- English Paper Piecing)
- Best Paper Piecing (foundation piecing)
- Best Machine Quilting, Longarm or Movable Machine
- Best Machine Quilting, Domestic or Stationary Machine
- Best Hand Quilting

As a result of our September committee meeting, we had already added three categories by adding a Medium size category and firming up the sizes, as well as by dividing the old Traditional Piecing category into two categories, Traditional Machine Piecing and Hand Piecing, and by dividing the old Best Machine Quilting into two categories, one for longarm machines and one for domestic machines. The more categories that are added, the more time-consuming and confusing the voting becomes for the Committee; we want the committee to be able to complete their voting in time to get the results compiled and the ribbons on the winning quilts by mid- to late-morning on Saturday of the show. We will evaluate this number of categories, the most we have ever had, after the 2020 show and see if we need to adjust the number either up or down for the next show.

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.

Sunshine and Shadow 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

In the past month, cards have been sent to Ruth Ashton on the passing of her husband, Dan, and to Cindy Nile on the passing of her uncle.

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 at mcandmac@comcast.net or 9 Fletcher Rd, Woburn, MA 01801.

In an attempt to get more people to read the newsletter so they can stay well-informed and get the most out of every guild meeting and activity, I am trying something new 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, and drop it in the bag near me labeled "Secret Word". 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.) Look elsewhere in the newsletter for the secret word!

Congratulations to Barbara Martinson for finding the secret phrase in December! Barbara won a little stack of mini charm squares.

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary