

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

January 2021

Until the Governor's restrictions on indoor gatherings are relaxed and the Senior Center opens, we will not be able to meet in person. Until you hear otherwise, assume that in-person monthly meetings are canceled.

We will be holding our next meeting virtually on Wednesday, January 6th at 7 p.m. A link to the meeting will be emailed to you about a week before the meeting. If we continue to use Google Meet, you must have a Gmail account or have the Google app downloaded on your device in order to join the meeting.



Please remember to mute your computer or other device during the meeting by clicking on the little microphone icon, like the one above, (on my laptop, it is at the bottom of my screen when I am in the Google Meet meeting- it may be at the top of your screen on an iPad) unless you wish to speak. When your microphone is on and you have a TV, radio (or spouse!) making noise in the background, it is distracting to everyone else in the meeting. You'll know it's muted because the microphone will be crossed out (like on a No Smoking sign) and it will be red.

President's Message

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!



2021 is almost here. At the start of the pandemic, I have been focusing on using projects and fabric in my stash. I read this meme and I laugh as there are times when I cannot resist a yard of fabric. 😊 As we start the new year, I am going to continue to use my stash but also buy that yard or two that is too perfect to pass up. I challenge each of you to look into your stashes for your next project!

Always here to listen, talk, discuss, and answer questions.
Stay safe and healthy!!

Martha

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Treasurer's Report: Carmen Arnone

The checkbook balance as of December 2nd was \$13,838.27. November's expenses included the following:

\$500.00 to Gretchen for gift cards for DCF in lieu of stuffed pillowcases
\$135.87 Yahoo website annual fee
\$ 75.00 Post Office box (for 6 months)
\$150.00 to Friends of the Senior Center for December raffle fundraiser

From Margie Berkowitch: As of press time, the guild has won a \$50 prize in the Senior Center raffle! That check was sent to Carmen for deposit.

Membership: Sally Nimblett

If you have a change of contact information (address, phone, email), please be sure to let me know so we can keep our membership list up to date in order to keep you informed! **Likewise, if you have decided not to renew your membership, please let me know that so I can invite a person from the waiting list to join the guild.** We have 5 people on a waiting list, and as we hear from people who have moved or who are not rejoining us, people on the waiting list will be asked to join so they can get the newsletter and various email notifications and have the chance to participate in online guild meetings and any other activities that we can do during the pandemic.

Because we are not yet having in-person meetings, the board has decided that payment of dues is suspended for now. If you have already paid dues for the 2020-2021 guild year, Carmen and I have your payment recorded; once we start meeting again and collecting dues again, those who have already paid will be all set through the 2021-2022 guild year. So far, 55 members have prepaid. You can still send me dues any time if you choose (regular dues \$30, or \$25 for age 70 and over) or you may wait until we are again meeting in person. If you do wish to pay now, please make your check out to HQG or Hammersmith Quilters Guild and mail it to me at 22 Pleasant Park Rd, Winthrop, MA 02152

Program Committee: Gail Dwyer and Dottie Macomber

WE WANT YOU! Actually, we want your ideas. We would like to hear from you, the members, about your ideas to keep the guild together and engaged. Until we can meet again in person, what would you like us to schedule as activities? Online demos/presentations led by either paid outside speakers or by our own members? Round Robins? A Mystery Quilt? A charity/donation quilt project? What else would you like to see? Please send in any suggestions and let us know if you (or you & a friend) are willing to coordinate/administer your idea.

Because of the continuing pandemic, the guild will not be holding its annual getaway weekend in March 2021 at the Ramada in Saco, Maine. The hotel has graciously rolled over our deposit and is holding a spot for us in March 2022. I'm sure we will all be looking forward eagerly to this getaway and for everything to get back to normal!

Mug Rug Exchange: Cindy Nile

Cindy thanks everyone who took part in the mug rug exchange. Twenty-eight members participated. Here are just three of the mug rugs that were exchanged:



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

Homes have been found for 20 pillowcases and quilts through the Home for Little Wanderers, North Shore satellite location. Thanks to everyone who made and donated pillowcases and quilts.

Creative Quiltworks Committee: Kristin Callahan & Ellen Moore

If you didn't take part in the mug rug swap in December, here is a chance to do a mug rug with a fun twist! The project for January is a Disappearing Six-Patch Mug Rug, which is Kristin's original pattern. See the website under the Newsletter tab for instructions (which are also being mailed to those members without internet access). Below is Kristin's example:



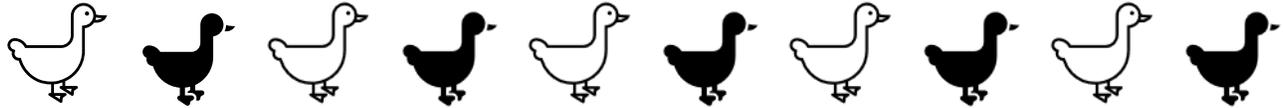


Margie Berkowitch says that she really loved making the Origami Hexie Star ornaments, which was the CQW project for December.

Block of the Month (BOM): Kathy Connors

Congratulations to Dottie Macomber, who won the Improv Tree blocks in December. Nine people participated and submitted a total of 28 blocks.

The directions for the January block, Large Flying Geese, are up on the website and have been mailed to those without internet access. Look on the Newsletter page of the website to find the directions. These blocks will be due by January 2nd. **Note the mailing instructions for these blocks.** As Kathy had surgery in November and is still unable to receive these blocks, she again requests that you mail your Large Flying Geese blocks to Lucille McCarthy, 7 Batchelder St, Melrose, MA 02176. Lucille will pick the winner at a drawing during our January meeting and will mail the blocks to the lucky winner.



Quilts of Valor: Merle Gordon

The need remains for **blocks** to be made into quilts for veterans through the Quilts of Valor program, so if anyone wants to make any 12 ½" blocks out of red, white and blue fabrics, Merle will accept them any time. You can mail them to Merle at 15 Pleasant Ave., Saugus, MA 01906 or you can call Merle to let her know that you have blocks you'd like to drop off. Her number is 781-233-6125.

At our December virtual meeting, Merle displayed some of the many blocks donated by Margarita Blyumkina and Millie Becker; thank you, Millie and Margarita! True to form, Margarita made many of hers from scraps given to her by other guild members.

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 (or by email on request until we can meet again in person).

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

A card from the guild was sent to Patti Knight, who is recovering from a long illness. We hope she is feeling much better and is also recovering well from her recent cataract surgery.

Member Photos





Margie Berkowitch's original HST (half-square triangle) design and her Lone Stars in progress, a pattern she says she has always wanted to try.



Margie also made these tissue box holders to thank the staff members of the Senior Center for working to provide as many services as possible to local seniors during the pandemic, including grab 'n' go lunches.



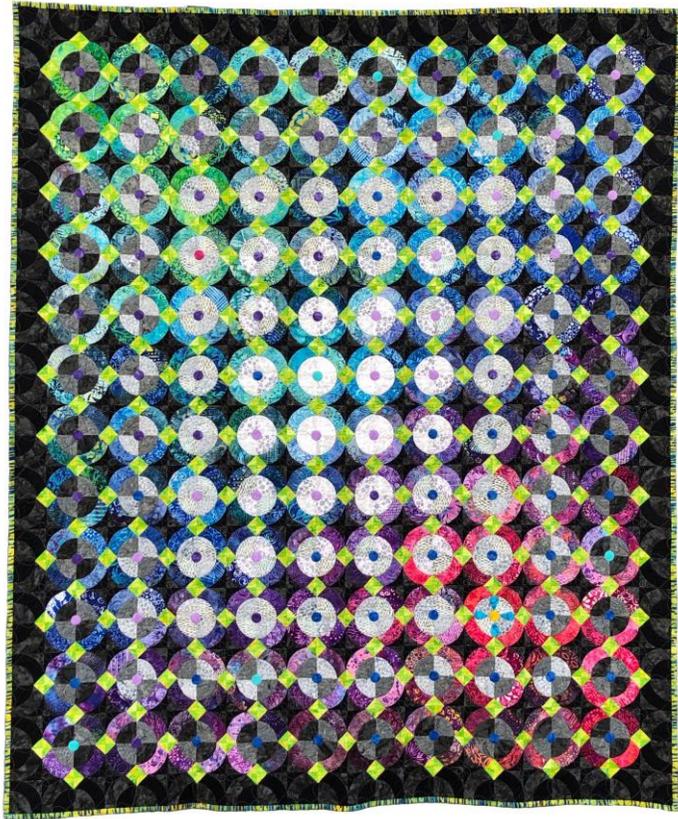
Ellen Moore won the Strippy Pumpkin blocks in October's BOM drawing. Here is one of the table toppers she made from some of the blocks.



Ellen also submitted a photo of the quilt she has worked on during the COVID-19 pandemic. All done except for binding!



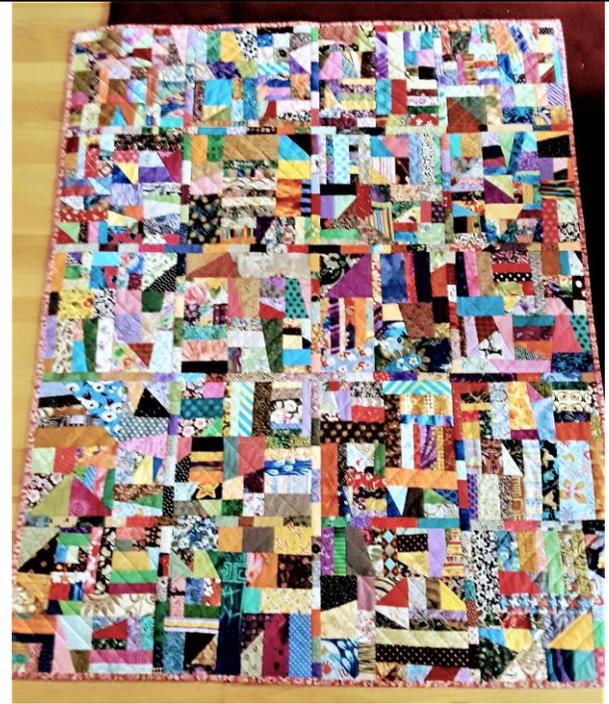
Janet Dalis sent in this photo and statement: "This is my COVID quilt. This is the Disappearing Nine Patch cut twice. I started it last summer as a thank you for someone I planned to stay with if I went to the Houston Quilt Festival. When that festival was canceled, I put this quilt aside to make some baby quilts. With those finished, it was time to revisit this one. Lots of ruler work quilting along with printing to wash-away-stabilizer stencils."



Janet also sent in these photos of another quilt that she forgot she had finished this summer! Here is her statement: "Here is another one I finished over the summer. It is an original design and totally reversible. I had special rulers made to help me cut and piece the blocks. The arcs and small circles are hand appliquéed. I did not have the Applipops then. Wish I did. I named this quilt Forget Me Not."



Barbara Talanian made this hand quilted quilt for her sister Sandy for Christmas.



Margarita Blyumkina has completed two more of her trademark reversible scrap quilts. As usual, she thanks members for their scrap donations.

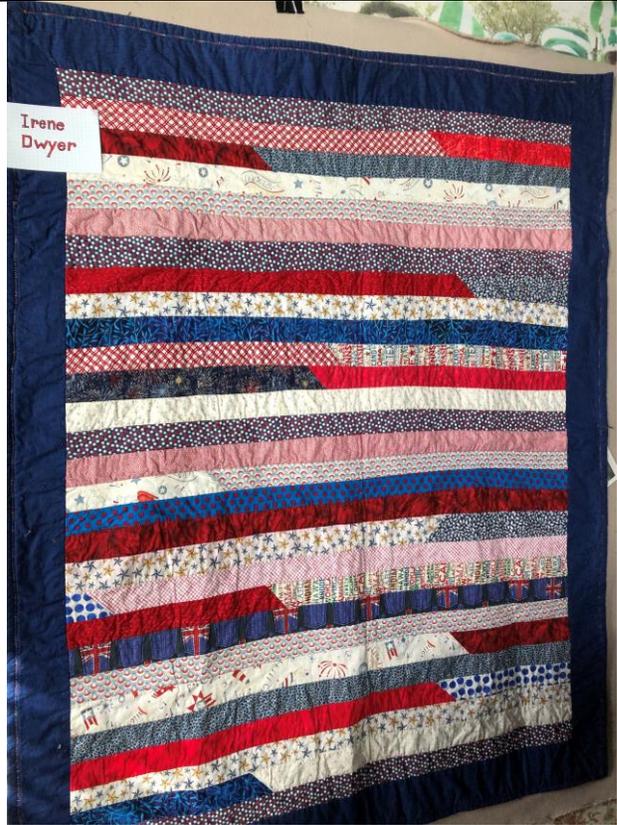


You can also see many photos posted directly by members on our new Facebook page!

Veterans' Quilt Project- Molly Conlin

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 215, Nahant, I would like to thank the Hammersmith guild members for donating the wonderful patriotic quilts that were delivered in December to the veterans who reside at Habitat PLUS in Lynn. Our members accounted for half of the donated quilts. The extra quilts will be gifted to senior veterans living in Nahant, Lynn and Saugus. Thank you also to Adrienne Nolan, who donated enough precut 9 patch kits to yield 2 quilts and several pillows. The response from our members was amazing; thank you, one and all. *-Molly*









Member News & Miscellaneous: Dottie Macomber

I am including two more YouTube links to videos by Karen Brown of Just Get It Done Quilts. The first is about how to organize your sewing space, and the second is about what to do with your UFOs (Yes, No, or Eh?):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaPFW-9lpdA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCH06vIT1lc>

Let me know if you find any worthwhile video links and I will share them with the group.

The Word of the Month (WOM): If you have read this far into the newsletter, you have the chance to win a little prize! Email me at mcandmac@comcast.net or call me at 781-932-3602 and tell me the WOM and you will be entered into a drawing for a prize. I will be choosing **three** winners each month!

Congratulations to the following SIX people (I decided to pick bonus winners) whose names were drawn from the 32 people who responded with the December WOM: Cindy Nile, Linda Persico, Jean Coughlin, Connie Fitzgerald, Janice Meade, and Carole d'Entremont.

The **WOM** for the January meeting is **Seam**. Submit your answer to me by January 5th so I can conduct the drawing for the winners at our January 6th meeting.

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.

You may continue to send me photos of any of your projects- quilts, BOM, Creative QuiltWorks projects, etc.- and I'll be happy to put them on the Photo Album page of the website and in this newsletter as space permits. You may also post your photos directly on our new Facebook page!

Another use for our Facebook page, which some members have already discovered, is as a forum for asking advice or questions about various quilting techniques or practices. For example, someone recently asked about working with flannel: prewash or not, use spray starch or some other stabilizing agent or not? Several members responded with advice and tips from their own experiences. Feel free to use our Facebook page as such a forum. Stay connected! 😊



Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary