

# Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

September 2021

## September 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting!!!!

**As of the date of publication of this newsletter, the Senior Center is open so we will be meeting inside on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>!! Everyone entering must wear a facemask and sign in with your name and phone number.** This list will be given to the center's staff so they can do contact tracing if it becomes necessary. Please sign in with Sally Nimblett at the front table when you enter. (If anything changes due to changing COVID conditions, you will receive an email or a phone call.\*) **Note:** We would like to start the meeting a little earlier than usual, at 6:50 instead of 7:00 so please plan to be there by 6:30 to sign in- **everyone MUST sign in!**

The Executive Board has decided to forego certain aspects of our meetings for now. There will be **NO** refreshment table, so please do **not** bring any water, snacks, etc. to share. If you want to bring something for yourself to eat or drink, you may do so.

We will **not** have the "Free Stuff" table at the September meeting. This has been a popular place to congregate, as members look over and claim fabrics, magazines, patterns and other "stuff" brought in by other members. As conditions change, we hope to bring the "Free Stuff" table back. We know that many of you have cleaned out your sewing and quilting spaces during the pandemic and have stuff you'd like to get rid of, but you'll just have to hang on to it a while longer!

We will also **NOT** be having the Name Badge, Fat Quarter, or Word of the Month drawings or the 3/\$1.00 raffle at the September meeting. We will not be having a September Creative QuiltWorks project. The board feels that we need to "ease in" to holding meetings again and see how things go before we resume all normal activities.

We **WILL** be having a September Block of the Month. See the note below about the September block.

In response to some members' concerns about sitting packed closely together as we usually do, Martha is going to see if the senior center can space the tables out for our meeting.

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\* If it does become necessary for us to meet outside in the parking lot, you will be notified. If that is the case, we will ask you to bring your own lawn chair, and we will be keeping the upper parking lot nearest the building free of cars so we can meet there. You will park in the lower lot, closest to the street.

## President's Message

Greetings!

Welcome to the new HQG year! Last year I started my message by saying "I believe this year will be different in how we interact with each other." I have to say, how we meet and interact will be different again this year. The plan is to start the year meeting inside the Saugus Senior Center with the requirement to

wear a mask. This year we will focus on building our quilting community in person by sharing projects we did over the past couple years.

Summary of changes to the HQG bylaws:

- There has been a change to state when members who do not pay dues will be dropped from the membership list.
- There is a proposal to change the election cycle to staggered years. This will allow the Board to have experienced board members represented at all times.
- We are adding a Membership Chairperson on the Board.
- We are removing the responsibility of the Newsletter to a committee position instead of it being a part of the Secretary position.
- Language has been added to the by-laws to allow business meetings at other times during the year when needed.

The changes will be discussed more at the September meeting and voted on at the October meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Senior Center on September 1<sup>st</sup>!

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

*Martha*

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#### **Treasurer's Report: Carmen Arnone**

Our checkbook balance is \$14,458.36 as of Aug. 4, 2021.

#### **Membership: Sally Nimblett**

We have lost a few members over the past year, but I'm happy to report that we have been able to invite new members from our waiting list. As a result, we are now once again at our membership limit of 120.

Welcome to all our new members! We look forward to meeting you in person.

As of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 15 people have not paid dues for this year. If you have yet to pay your dues, please be prepared to do so at the September meeting.

#### **Program Committee: Gail Dwyer and Dottie Macomber**

Our program for September will include a presentation by Martha of the proposed changes to the bylaws. Everyone will receive a copy of the proposed bylaws before the membership meeting, either by email or with the printed newsletter for those who get the newsletter by mail. Martha will answer any questions about the proposed changes, and discussion will take place.

In addition to the business above, we will hold extended Show & Tell sessions for the first three or four months of this guild year. We're sure that you all have been hard at work creating many beautiful quilts, and we'd like to see them! We want to give people a chance to talk about the creations they have made during the COVID pandemic, so we want to hold a "Tell Us Your COVID Quilting Stories" Show & Tell. In order to give members more time to talk about their creations, **we are going to invite only members whose last names begin with N through Z to bring items for Show & Tell in September.** Everyone else will have a chance to bring Show & Tell items in the next several months. After that, we will go back to

our usual Show & Tell format, but for now, please plan to bring your items to show when your last name's initial comes up. Thank you!

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We are planning to hold **our next Quilting Getaway Weekend in March of 2022!** Dottie has been in touch with the Ramada Inn in Saco, Maine; they have Thursday, March 17 through Sunday, March 20, 2022 (four days, three nights) reserved for our next getaway. Signups will be sometime in late fall or early winter once the hotel gives Dottie the room rates for next year. As usual, there will be 48 spots available, and signups will be taken on a first come, first served basis. We will not be having a meal plan for dinners this time, so you will be on your own for all lunches and dinners. Stay tuned!

The hotel has told Dottie that all rooms now have refrigerators- yay! Now you don't need to worry about reserving one.

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

We know you have all been very busy during the pandemic, creating many charity quilts and pillowcases. To keep us from being inundated with all your donations at once, we ask that **only** the members whose last names go alphabetically from **Adler through Clapp** bring donation quilts to us at the September meeting. Please do **NOT** bring any pillowcases at this time; we will collect them later. Thank you for understanding and for holding onto your donations just a bit longer!

**NOTE:** If anyone still has one of the UFO quilts that they finished as part of a project that Dottie was running, where she got a whole bunch of quilt tops donated to us from another quilting group, you may bring that quilt in and give it to Dottie. If you still have the top and have decided that you don't want to layer, quilt, and finish it, you may bring that back to Dottie as well and someone else can finish it for a donation quilt.

**Creative Quiltworks Committee: Nancy Sandreuter**

Many thanks again to Nancy, who volunteered to head up this committee. (If anyone would like to work with Nancy on this committee, or if you have any ideas for projects or technique challenges that would be fun for the membership to try, contact Nancy at 781-710-9614.)

Nancy will have a project ready for us to work on later this month; the instructions will be published on the website on the newsletter page and will be mailed to those members who get their newsletters by mail. Any members who choose to do so may bring their project to the **October** meeting, and we can all vote for our favorite. Each of the top winners will get a prize ribbon!

These optional monthly challenges are designed to give members the opportunity to try a sewing or quilting project or technique that might be new to them. It's always fun to see the different results given everyone's interpretation of the instructions and/or choice of colors and fabrics.

**Block of the Month (BOM): Kathy Connors and Lucille McCarthy**

September's BOM is "Pick Up Sticks." The instructions are on the website Newsletter page and are being mailed to those members without internet access. Bring them to the **September** meeting. For each block you make, your name will be entered into a drawing to win all the blocks! You could win an almost-instant quilt top!

**Please note:** The instructions say to trim your finished block to 12", not the usual 12 1/2". This is not a typo!

**Quilts of Valor: Merle Gordon**

Merle’s contact in the QOV program, Darlene Coit, is planning to retire at the end of the year from her position as regional coordinator for QOV, as you may have read in the email I forwarded to you all. We hope that someone else will step up to take the role that Darlene has fulfilled so ably for many years.

In the meantime, 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. We will always be able to find an outlet for these quilt blocks, whether it is to give them to a new regional coordinator, to send them to the national organization, or to find our own local veterans organization who would appreciate completed quilts that we can make from these blocks.

Thank you to Rosie Graham and the members of her QoV pod who made many blocks for **Quilts of Valor!**

**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).

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**Lori Sue McNeely** is recovering from knee surgery. If you would like to send her a card, you may send it to her home address, 426 Lebanon St, Melrose, MA 02176.

**Member Photos**

No one has sent me any photos recently; I guess we’re all just busy enjoying the last days of summer. However, many have been posted to our Facebook page; check ‘em out!

**Member News & Miscellaneous: Dottie Macomber**

**The Topsfield Fair is on this year!!!** If you plan to enter a quilt, entries (either paper or electronic) **MUST** be received by the fair by **September 6<sup>th</sup>**, so don’t delay!

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**The Word of the Month (WOM):** Congratulations to the following people whose names were drawn during our June 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual meeting: Jane Amato, Millie Becker, and Wendy Ward. They each won a little prize just for reading the newsletter!

We will resume this activity once we go back to holding all of our drawings and raffles.

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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 Gallery page of the website and in this newsletter as space permits. You may also post your photos directly on our Facebook page!

If you haven’t joined our Facebook page yet, find the Hammersmith Quilters Guild page and click on the link to “Join Group;” Martha is the administrator of our Facebook page and she will let you in the next time she is on Facebook. The page is private to guild members only.

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In June **Nancy Sandreuter** became a certified teacher for Laura Heine Collage quilting. She attended the retreat in Billings, Montana and had the pleasure of meeting 25 other ladies, some who are fellow independent testers, and others who are shop owners all over the country. Nancy reports: "We shopped in Laura's spectacular shop too, which is always a great fun activity. She made us feel very much at home And I got time to spend the week with family, touring around the area, including a crazy ride through Bear Tooth Pass. Looking forward to offering classes this fall."



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As always, if anyone submits quilts to shows, fairs, or other contests, 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](mailto:mcandmac@comcast.net) or 9 Fletcher Rd, Woburn, MA 01801.

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And **FINALLY...**

