

Wayside Quilters Guild Fall 2006 questionnaire – report of results, Jan. 2007

29 completed surveys were received. Here are their compiled answers.

1. How long (approximately) have you been a member of Wayside Quilters?

less than 1 year: 2	1 year: 1	2 years: 3	3 years: 6
4 years: 2	5 years: 5	6 years: 2	7-9 years: 3
10-15 years: 4	over 15 years: 4 (including one who said “since the beginning”)		

2. Do you belong to another quilt group? 8 said yes

The groups include: Applique Society (Sutton), Traditional Quilters (Needham), an out-of-state group, Quilter’s Connection, Blooming Applique Society, an informal group, Hundredth Town Quilters, Concord Piecemakers and County Line

3. How long have you been a quilter?

1-2 years: 2	3-5 years: 3	5-9 years: 2	10-14 years: 3
15-24 years: 7	over 25 years: 8	Plus two comments: “Regardless of how long, I still consider myself a beginner”; “On my own many years”	

4. What other needle arts do you enjoy (e.g., embroidery, rug hooking, knitting, etc.)?

Embroidery: 13	Knitting: 11	Sewing clothing: 4	Crocheting: 3
Cross-stitch: 2	Ribbon/silk ribbon embroidery: 2	Red work: 2	Rug hooking: 2
Needlepoint: 1	Machine embroidery: 1	Sewing: 1	Rug braiding: 1

5. Are you interested in techniques that combine other needle arts with quilting? 19 said yes. If yes, which one?

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Crazy quilting techniques: 4	Embellishment: 3	Embroidery: 3	Applique: 2
Dyeing: 1	Printing: 1	Bead embellishment: 1	Knitting/crocheting: 1
Painting: 1	Red work: 1	Crayon applique: 1	Stenciling: 1

6. What kind of quilter do you consider yourself to be:

Traditional: 13 (one comment: “I would love to become an art quilter.”)

Art/innovative: 3

Both: 7

Other: 5 – “Mostly traditional but willing to try new methods”; “Traditional moving towards innovative”; “Both but moving toward mostly traditional”; “Depends on the project”; “Still learning, trying new things. Definitely not traditional.”

7. What are your principal areas of interest in quilting? (Choose up to six, and rate them in order of interest, with 1 being what most interests you, 2 a little less so, and so on):

	1- most interest	2 - less so, and so on	3	4	5	6 (still interested but ...)	Total response s/category
Hand applique	8	0	2	2	2	0	14
Machine applique	4	1	2	1	2	2	12
Hand quilting	5	5	2	1	2	2	17
Machine quilting	8	0	4	3	5	0	20
Scrap quilting	7	2	1	5	0	2	17
Quilting for children	2	0	1	0	0	1	4
Landscapes	1	3	1	1	0	0	6
Paper piecing	3	6	1	2	1	1	14
Fabric dyeing	0	1	1	0	1	1	4
Machine threadwork	0	2	2	2	1	0	7
Quilted clothing	1	1	1	2	3	2	10

Embellishment	3	3	4	2	2	1	15
Computer design	0	0	0	1	0	1	2

Other (please specify): Fabric portraits from photos (2), antique quilts, stamping on fabric, original designs

8. What group activities are you most likely to participate in?

Mystery quilt: 12 Regular quilting bees: 12 Round robin: 11
Fabric exchanges: 10 None (I like to work alone): 5
Other (please specify):
“Charity quilt projects”, “Do not know enough about any of them”

9. Please share ideas you have for activities (in-house) or programs (speakers from outside):

- \$ Show & tell with more information about the quilts/techniques (2)
- \$ Field trips (e.g., NEQM, quilt shows, festivals) (2)
- \$ “Demo night with WQ members (we did it a few years ago; Mary Leonard did sashiko, Ginny Thompson did applique, etc.)” (2)
- \$ “Perhaps an occasional slide show evening on the work of the ‘big names’ or schools/movements in the quilt world”
- \$ “In-house projects (like placemats) with small groups”
- \$ “Fabric exchange with mini workshops in piecing techniques”
- \$ “UFO pledge” – done a few years ago, one person coordinated, members pledged to finish a project for the next quilt show – if they did not finish, they paid a self-designated “fee” to the guild
- \$ Machine quilting
- \$ Hand quilting
- \$ Landscapes
- \$ Yankee swap

- \$ Quilt sandwiching meeting
- \$ Speakers from in-house or trunk shows
- \$ Nancy Halpern, Natick, as speaker
- \$ Mary Stori

10. Please help us find places to display our raffle quilt and to sell tickets (for no/VERY small fee). Does your town, church, school or civic group host a festival or fair? If so, please provide as much information as you can here (including town):

- \$ Sudbury Days (October)
- \$ Ann’s Fabrics
- \$ Horatio Alger fair, Marlborough (October), small fee?
- \$ IMAGES (must commit volunteers to white glove)
- \$ Wayside Inn outdoor crafts fair
- \$ DeCordova Art in the Park (June 2008)

11. What do you consider the most important benefit to you of belonging to Wayside Quilters?

Interacting with other quilters, people who share the "passion"/forming friendships: 10	
Enriching knowledge/meeting other quilters: 7	
Workshops: 5	
Speakers: 6	
Sharing common interest/sharing ideas: 5	
Outreach: 3	Getting inspiration: 3
Stimulation from show & tell/speakers: 3	
Being able to show my work: 1	Mini-seminars: 1
Quilt show (goal/deadline to create something special): 1	Show & tell: 1
Stretching my abilities (with brown bag challenges, etc.): 1	Challenge reveals: 1
Seeing what other (non-pro) quilters/guild members are doing: 2	

12. Conversely, what, if anything, had you hoped to get out of being a Wayside member that you have not?

Wish for "sewing circle" or small subgroups (3)	Wish it was smaller to interact more intimately (2)
Regular "quilting bees" to encourage friendships	Knowing members a little more
More show & tell (likes idea exchange)	General quilting get-togethers (discuss projects/get ideas)
Learning more on how to piece a quilt	Learning hints & help in learning how others have solved quilting problems
A meeting where everyone brings a piece of quilting to share	Hard to get to know others, suggest break-out/mini-groups at meetings

- \$ Getting membership to know everyone, not just those most involved/getting to know each other better (2)
- \$ More learning opportunities/workshops (2)
- \$ Reaching out to new members – it took a long time to feel comfortable in the group
- \$ Guild members teaching their specialties
- \$ Get to know people's needs, e.g., if there's a "people" need (people wanting to meet new people), we should find ways to reach out in friendship
- \$ 100 charity quilts this year
- \$ At least one entry from each member at the quilt show
- \$ Hand-quilt the raffle quilts
- \$ Having a say in the design of the (raffle) quilt
- \$ Continue to have great speakers/workshops for members
- \$ Continue a variety of activities at meetings
- \$ Forming some smaller, special-interest groups
- \$ Larger membership
- \$ More speakers and workshops
- \$ Smaller group projects, like chemo caps

Additional comments:

“(WQG) has really always surpassed my expectation. I am bowled over by members’ creativity and willingness to help pass on their skills_”

“I’ve gotten a great deal from the guild over the years – what I’ve needed has varied but I’ve never been disappointed.”

“I think our outreach program is excellent in what they do and the great energy toward their goals.”

And the following extensive feedback from one member:

“I’ve been a guild member for 16 years and have seen the energy in the group ebb and flow over the years. (Same for my energy for the guild – some years I have been very active and others I have not.) It seems that the guild is in a great place right now – high energy leaders, lots of new members getting involved, a nice range of activities, and a great speaker lineup.

There is something happening that concerns me, though, and that is the ‘authoritative’ tone that I’m sensing with some new policies. We **have to** sign in at meetings. We **have to** put our names on the questionnaires. Anyone who participates in the Ugliers Auction **has to** make a fabric contribution. We’re told w might **have to** each pay a fee if we can’t successfully promote the raffle quilt. And it’s only November. Where is this going? It doesn’t feel good.

It’s my understanding that the Guild has a great deal of money in the bank. So why the panic/threats about the raffle quilt? For as long as I can remember, members have avoided the chore of hauling the quilt around to sell tickets, and it’s always a struggle to get someone to chair the job. That person often ends up doing all the hauling because no one else volunteers. A few shows ago, it got so bad that there was a lot of discussion at meetings about whether we should continue to even make a raffle quilt. I, for one, voted against it and would rather pay \$5 in dues more each year. I would also like to see the Guild’s annual financial statement in the newsletter at the end of the year, like it used to be, when I was newsletter editor a hundred years ago.

Re: the Ugliers Auction, why would you do anything that might create a barrier to people coming and spending their money? There has never been a shortage of goods to sell – in fact, usually there is too much, and we have trouble keeping people there to the end of the auction because it runs so long. Last year, the man who spent the most money at the auction was not a guild member. Why should we have a rule that might keep away other visitors or people who read about the auction in the paper? Please rethink this. Thank you for this opportunity to speak my mind!”