

Wayside Quilters

Next Meeting:

April 14, 2008

7pm Business Meeting
Goodnow Library
Concord Road, Sudbury

Raffle Items:

No raffle

Refreshments:

Towns of Sudbury K-Z

Meeting Dates:

May 12
June 9

Mystery Quilt:

Step 5

Newsletter Deadline:

Noon Friday 2nd May

www.waysidequilters.org

April 2008

From the President:

Hello Wayside Quilters!

Phew! This is a busy time of year for many people. For me, work is busy, I'm about to go touring colleges with my son, and my duties with the guild are at peak level. It's all good but I think I need a nap! I can't wait to relax with you at our next meeting.

The Nominating Committee is in full swing filling openings for officers and committee chairs (elections for officers take place in June). I thank all who we've talked to so far and appreciate your time. We still have several positions to fill so please give some thought to how you might want to serve the guild. We need you!

We have the always popular, fun and funky Ugliers Auction as our meeting activity this month. To ensure we have ample time for the Auction, **we will start the business meeting at 7 p.m.** so "social time" will be a little shorter than usual. I apologize to those of you who are rushing from work or family to get to the meeting by regular time but I think we may need the extra minutes due to the bounty I've heard will be available for auction. Please come as soon as you can make it, grab a bidding number and jump into the fun, even if the Auction has started.

I want to be sure we have time for Show & Tell as well, since we had to skip it last month due to time constraints. Bring your lovely creations and we will make time to see every one of them!

Please feel free to invite friends to the Auction. For those members who are new, a brief description: We collect and annually auction off items that members have donated -- they may be UFOs, fabric they don't love anymore, other needlecraft projects, etc. -- and guild members get wonderful items at bargain basement prices. You don't have to donate or be a guild member to participate. We take cash and checks as payment. Guests are always free at our meetings so invite away!

I'll keep this message short and sweet -- just like the fleeting aromas of spring I catch a whiff of every now and again when I'm

outside. Anyone else besides me have crocuses popping up? I love those happy little flowers! Mother Nature is doing her darndest to get spring to us, isn't she? Let's be patient just a while longer.

I hope to see you on the 14th!

Best,
Kristine

Programs

Be sure to save the dates: May 12 and May 13... At our May 12th meeting, Anne Gallo and Susan Rabin will present a trunk show of their stunning, but easy-to-do, quilts. Their knack of taking simple patterns and creating from these complex-looking quilts will inspire us all as we look forward to planning new summer projects. And... their May 13th workshop will get us started. Visit their website at yankeequilts.com

Anne Messier

A "thank you" from Karen Pulaski, our guest speaker and workshop leader in March:

"Just a quick note to thank you for the warm welcome from all of you and the interest you showed in my work. The workshop day was fun and you all did a great job with much enthusiasm. You're a fun group and I was glad to spend the day with you all. All my best, Karen Pulaski

Workshops

Yankee Quilts Workshop on May 13th

Wayside Quilters Guild will host a workshop with Anne Gallo and Susan Raban of Yankee Quilts on Tuesday, May 13th. Anne and Susan have been working and teaching together for over 25 years. They worked for many years with Mary Ellen Hopkins and this workshop was inspired by that collaboration. Sue and Anne have taught all over the United States as well as in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. This will be an all-day technique class. You will learn precise machine piecing, pressing techniques and more, that will make you a better quilter. The workshop, titled, "It's OK" will cost \$35 for Wayside Guild members and \$45 for nonmembers. You can sign up and pay Laura at the April meeting or mail your check payable to "Wayside Quilters Guild" to:

Laura Lane, 29 Ahern Road, Marlborough, MA 01752

Quilt Show 2008

ROSY THOUGHTS on THE CHALLENGE



Sitting in my sewing room today simultaneously I heard the lovely song Bette Midler made famous, "The Rose", I was enjoying the smell of rose scented essential oil in a burner, a beautiful water color of roses sat in front of me, inherited recently from my mother and full of tender memories, and the newest issue of American Quilter sat on the sewing table next to me, so full of roses you could practically smell it! Indeed there are 8 different techniques for creating roses of some sort in the current issue – May 2008. You would

have thought a rose quilt would have leaped into being there and then with all that inspiration. I am hopeful it still will....the summer lies ahead after all. All this to say I hope there are roses blooming in your sewing rooms – we could surely do with something to inspire garden magic at this bleak point in the season, couldn't we?

To those of you who may not yet know the guidelines for the quilt show challenge this year:

The theme is "Everything's coming up Roses"

The size is exactly 24 inches by 24 inches – no bigger, no smaller, so we can hang them closely together.

The roses can spill out but not over!

Anything that says ROSE to you is acceptable.

It can be traditional, contemporary, serious, and/or whimsical.

It's a great piece to have fun on – hope you are!



Marianne Hatton and Kristine Deiderich

Outreach

Dear Benje and Jane,

I am writing to thank you for the extraordinary quilts you donated to the children in residence on the CBAT Unit. The children received them just before bedtime, and each one had his/her own unique and heartfelt response, such as: "How did you know that blue was my favorite color?" and "Pigs! I really like baby pigs. They are so cute!" One child said, "I am going to stay wrapped in it all night; I love it!" Many commented that they were beautiful and great; others seemed at a loss for words and just smiled. It was truly wonderful to witness their reactions and to see the quilts received so graciously.

We recognize all of the thought and care that went into crafting these amazing quilts, and we are grateful that you chose these needy children as recipients. We appreciate your kindness, thoughtfulness, and desire to make the hospital stay for the residents in our care a little brighter.

We appreciate and welcome your offer to donate quilts to us in the future! We have several new children in residence each week.

With sincerest gratitude,
Dale Jane Kohl
Milieu Coordinator

Mary Ann Mullin, Ph.D.
Program Director
Franciscan Hospital for Children
30 Warren Street
Boston, MA 02135.

New England Quilt Museum News

The New England Quilt Museum proudly presents:
The Whole Story: Wholecloth Quilts by Hand and
Machine Opening April 3 and continuing through
June 15, 2008.

Reception and Lecture by noted wholecloth historian,
Holice Turnbow, April 5, 1 PM, free with museum
admission.

Support for this exhibition provided in part by David
Stansbury Photography, Mancuso Show Management,
and Fairfield Processing, Inc.

For additional information please visit
www.nequiltmuseum.org

The New England Quilt Museum is participating in a
study conducted by Williams College. The Williams
group (their official title is "Williams College Center
for Creative Community Development" and their
research is funded in part by the Mass Cultural
Council) is tracking where our visitors come from and
so we are asking them, at the front desk when they
come in, as we always have. The case study is
looking at how many people the museum draws
locally, within Merrimack Valley, state wide, and out
of state, to help show the impact we have on Lowell's
local economy by attracting the visitors to the area.
They call the case study an "Economic & Social
Impact Evaluation."

Part of the study includes a survey of quilt guild
members. With the guilds, we are looking to see how
to better connect with them and what their reactions
are to our exhibits and what their expectations are as
they visit the museum. The survey is attached.
Please fill it out and bring it to the Wayside meeting
on April 14th. Laura Lane will collect the surveys and
compile them for the museum. Thank you!

Text and Textile Extravaganza IV

On Saturday, April 26th, the New England Quilt
Museum will host a "Text and Textile
Extravaganza" from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For a
\$25 donation, you get an empty shopping bag to
fill to the brim with collectible and current books,
fat quarters, sample fabrics and yardage. This
sale has been very successful in the past and is a
great way to build up your stash!

Roots of Strength

The NEQM is accepting 12 ½" blocks (includes the
seam allowances) in any tree or leaf pattern for its
public art project "Roots of Strength". The blocks
will be displayed at the Sew Expo in Worcester
April 10-12 and at the Lowell Quilt Festival in
August. They will be made into comfort quilts and
distributed to several organizations in Lowell.
Blocks can be brought or mailed to the museum or
given to Laura Lane.

Library Talk

This month we looked into 2 books on traditional
quilting, "Great American Quilts 1988" and "Great
American Quilts 1989".

Both offer stories of quilters from those years and
pictures of the quilts they produced. The quilters
featured come from all over the country.

The quilts are made using templates that are
provided. Some of the sampler quilts are quite
beautiful.

One unusual quilt was made of recycled paper and
fabric, separated into color groups, whirled
together in a blender, dried and cut into strips to
use in a Log Cabin design.

Marilyn Novak
Carol deBold
Library Chairs

For your consideration

At the last WQ meeting I presented this to the members present, and am including it in this month's newsletter for those members not present, and for those who might like to go over it again. It is a tad long, so thanks for your patience in sticking with it!

Suggestion to consider changing The Wayside Quilter's meeting format by Marianne Hatton,
March 2008

At this time last year, I was fortunate to spend three months in Melbourne, Australia where my husband had opted to take his sabbatical leave from the university where he teaches. I registered, and took part in the fantastic Australian Quilt Convention that took place there shortly after we arrived, in the hopes of meeting some friendly quilters. And indeed I did – one who loaned me a sewing machine to use while I was there, and one who invited me to her quilt guild. Perfect!

In making the arrangements to attend the guild meeting, I was quite surprised when Liesje said she would pick me up on Saturday in time to get there for a 10 am meeting. I was even more surprised when she said to bring some hand-stitching, lunch, and a teacup! When I asked when to expect to be back home, she said we'd leave around 3 or 4 pm, and now I was really intrigued!

What could we possibly be going to do that would take such a healthy chunk of the day, I wondered, since our guild meetings generally run about two hours?

First off, Liesje offered me a spot in a mini PUPS (short for "polish up your patchwork skills"!) workshop that was starting at 10. On this day, one of the guild members was teaching a technique to make a Korean bookmark. I met a few of the members there as we sewed lovely fabric bookmarks to her directions. She had assembled the supplies for us and after about an hour, away we went with a lovely handmade item – a gift for ourselves or someone else.

I went back to the main hall, where the members were sitting around long tables and sewing, chatting and drinking tea/coffee. Many were working on their own quilts as their show was coming up soon. Others were helping to sew bindings onto the outreach quilts that had been made and quilted, and that was what I opted to do also, currying favor with their outreach chair, Marie! At the back of the room the guild library was set up. There was a closet which locked, and remained at the hall, and Noelle the librarian helped me find some publications that would yield the Australian patterns I needed for a quilt I was planning. There were some sales tables set up that day for members to sell some of their excess fabric, tools, books and magazines etc. There may have been other activities going on but I didn't get all the way around the room to see them. I just know I was blown away by the opportunity to enjoy a sociable time in the company of women who liked to do the same things I did, in a leisurely manner. Around 12.30, I think, we ate the bag lunches we had brought, and got ready for the business part of the meeting. Of course we could still stitch while that was going on. And the meeting looked a lot like ours at that point.....guild business, show business, a speaker, and then "show and tell". Later on I went to another guild where the set up and timing was similar, and had an equally enjoyable time there. This was apparently a pattern, not an aberration!

Well, I have been thinking a lot about it all since, and was particularly struck by the good time we had at our recent outreach meeting here. I couldn't think of a nicer way to spend a few hours on a Saturday, than in the company of a lovely group of women (no men there that day!), doing what we enjoyed most, and for a good cause too! For my part I find our meetings rushed and with little or no time to socialize. There have frequently been criticisms leveled at the guild for being unfriendly. I don't believe that to be the case – I believe our meeting format generally just doesn't allow it to be otherwise. And so I have begun talking to the board and the membership about the idea of perhaps rethinking how we might structure some of our guild's meetings, to a model similar to the one I enjoyed so much in Australia.

My hope in proposing this change is:

1. To make some of our meetings more sociable, with time to get to know each other better.
2. To offer some day-time meetings to attract the people who find getting to a meeting on a weeknight difficult. Several people who work have told me that this is why they don't attend meetings, or have dropped out of the guild altogether.
3. To make some of the meetings more accessible to those who can't or don't like to go out at night, and especially not in the winter. We have/ have had many members who cite this as a reason for not coming to meetings.
4. To make the guild as attractive as possible on many levels to attract and keep our members.

To this end, I suggest moving towards alternating our meetings between week night evening and Saturday daytime meetings. Naturally with some speakers already scheduled, this is not something we can do consistently, but there are a lot of gaps in the meeting schedules where we could, if we chose to, move the meeting to a Saturday.

The reactions I have met with so far have been mixed, but mostly very favorable. On the negative side, sometimes the reaction is "I couldn't do that because I work in the week", but I also hear that same response to why some people don't come to week night meetings! I guess it can go both ways. Mostly, however, reactions have been favorable. I am hearing enthusiasm from members who don't like night time meetings, and from those who would welcome the potential to enjoy more of what quilting is all about – the camaraderie that comes of sharing our time doing something we love. So in considering this, I am suggesting we think seriously about the changes that have occurred in the guild. Our age demographic has changed – I don't see the average age of the guild getting any younger! Also, our numbers have dropped severely and I wonder if a different format might not help to bring our guild size up again. I guess we won't know until we try. What I do know is that the last time I ran the quilt show, we had 170 members, and today we have 60! (And 73 members last year to 60 this year.) It would be so nice if we could find a way to broaden our appeal to more members, and this is my proposal for making some changes that may do that.

Also of interest – I have been talking to a guild here on the south shore, about doing a trunk show and teaching a workshop for them. They meet on a Saturday, and have both their speaker and a 3 hour workshop on the same day! Apparently this has been their manner of operating for at least the past ten years, and so my suggestion may not be as unusual as I first thought! It might also be a model worth looking into for some of our meetings. Perhaps it could help solve some of our difficulties filling workshops also, to sometimes offer a different option.

So I offer these thoughts with the well-being and longevity of the guild in mind. I have been a member for over 20 years, along with quite a few other members of an equally long standing membership, and hope to see us grow and thrive for many more years.

The president, the board, and I welcome your input, ideas and opinions.
Thanks for your interest,

Marianne Hatton

Historian

A portion of a letter received from Rosemary Ponte by Judy Merra

You asked how the guild got its name. I wanted a name that was not exclusive of people from neighboring towns - therefore it could not be "Sudbury Quilt Guild". The Wayside Inn is located in Sudbury but really belongs to the whole area - something denoting the heritage of that local area and surrounding towns. "Wayside Quilters" seemed to me to be an inclusive name rather than an exclusive one - a name that would belong to a group from many neighboring towns. And indeed it did work out that way, as we soon had members from many surrounding towns, not just Sudbury.

One of our members (I believe it was Patty Huston, but am not sure) arranged for us to meet at the Goodnow Library and at the next meeting we had 20 people attend. Each month the numbers increased and before long we had almost 100 members. According to a newspaper article which I have, in 1991, there were more than 130 members. Some of the members whom I remember as being very active, helpful and supportive in the first few years were Jan Soron, Amelia Entin, Ruth

Riceman, Patty Huston, Marianne Hatton, Lydia Perry, Connie Russell and many, many others, whose names escape me at the moment, but whose actions remain strong in my memory.

Activities

Uglies Auction

This month is the Uglies Auction. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to help setup. We will see you there between 6 and 6:30. For those still looking to donate please bring your stuff clean and bundled if possible, with a quick note as to what is in the bundle. This will all help keep the Auction moving smoothly.

BIDDING STARTS AT 7:15. Bring your friends, they can donate and participate too. The money raised funds our speakers and other activities of the guild including our Outreach Program.

There will be finger food available at the Auction for those coming right from work, and we suggest you bring a shopping bag to carry home your great finds.

Box Challenge

The boxes full of embellishments will be back and we'll have some new stuff in them for those still adding to their challenge project.

A sign-up for the summer challenge will be available. We ask that you let Jill or Janet know in advance if you are going to do the summer challenge so that we can prepare a packet for you. Participants will get some fabric (all the same) and a pattern to use in the challenge. More information will be available at the meeting.

Jill Callander and Janet Columbus



Mystery Quilt 2006

by T. Mahone

Finished size: 78" x 94.5"

Step 5 - Uneven 2-patch

1. From Accent Fabric cut 10 strips 3.5" x width of fabric.	
2. From Background fabric cut 10 strips 2" x width of fabric.	
3. Sew an Accent strip to a Background strip lengthwise. Repeat to make 10 strip sets. The units should measure 5" wide when sewn.	
4. Cut the strip sets into 80 5" sections.	