

# Thimbles & Friends Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 21 • Issue 8

April 2023

## **Board and Committee Members** **Newsletter Submissions** **2022– 2023**

**Chair:** Wendy Moore

**Co-Chair:** Janice O’Gara

**Treasurer:** Barbara White

**Co-Treasurer:** Julia Blanchard

**Secretary:** Sue-Ellen Hewitt

**Charity:** Shirley McLeod

**Facilities:** Pat McCollem

**Membership/Hospitality:**  
Phyllis Barry

**Newsletter Editors:**  
Taryen Shannon, Wendy Foley,  
Deborah Hylander

**Web & Social Media:** Sarah Norris

**Programming Coordinators:** Joyce  
Hochstrasser, Sheryl Briggs,  
Sue Warchal

All guild members are encouraged to submit articles for this newsletter. Share an interesting article, picture cartoon, story etc. Add your thoughts and please provide the source or web address. If you like it, we will, too! If the newsletter is already published that month, we will save your article for a future publication.

- Taryen, Wendy F., Deborah

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## **Meeting Dates**

Here is the meeting information for our remaining guild year.  
Meeting times are 10:15 AM – 2 PM.

April 1st	Speaker- Sue Hersey, Powerful purses
May 6th	Tea Party

## **Guild Website**



<http://www.thimblesandfriendsquiltguild.org>

**Newsletter Note:** Just right-click on the picture of any quilt or image to access its web origin.



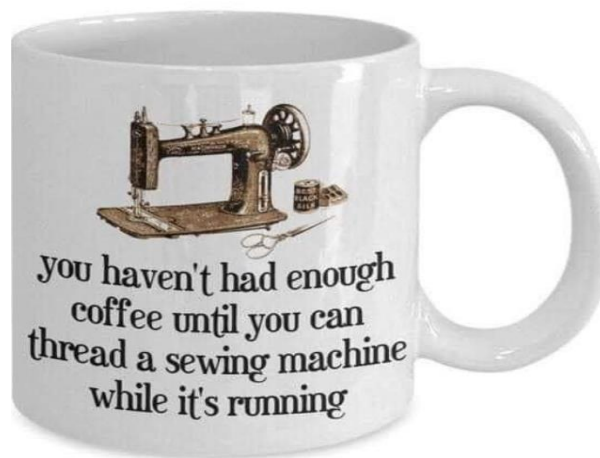
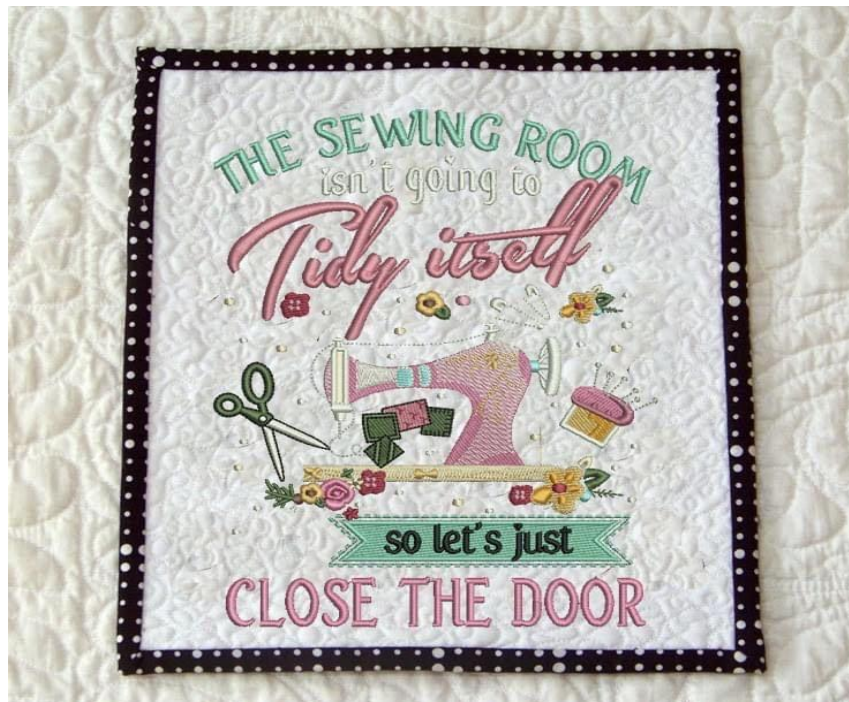
## *From the Chair*

Spring has sprung! All the crocuses are up, and the rabbits are running.

This time of year, I always want to clean the sewing room, but as soon as I get started, I find a project that gets me sidetracked. And then the sun is streaming through the windows, and I hear my mother saying, "Get out!" And then I end up outside walking with my pups taking in the clean fresh spring air.

Spring is for new beginnings and new opportunities. We hope everyone will consider taking a position on the board or a subcommittee. At this meeting we will have nominations and we will be voting on small changes to our policies. In our policies there is a description of the duties for each office. We will vote on the nominations at our May meeting.

- Wendy Moore



- Wendy Moore



## Programming

Sue Hersey will be coming and doing a workshop on making a purse. Looks like a simple project and you should be able to complete during the meeting. So, bring your machine. Sue will be bringing kits. I will not be attending the meeting as I had knee replacement surgery on my left knee on March 16. So, I will see you in May.

May meeting will be our annual "Tea Party ". Claudia's pastor Crystal will be at our meeting. The Churn Dash quilt we worked on during the retreat will be delivered to her then.

I heard a quilter from the Wisconsin Quilt Show do a color lecture and she had a different way of looking at a UFO. She called it. "Ultimately fabulous opportunity". She did show some of her UFO's and they were amazing.

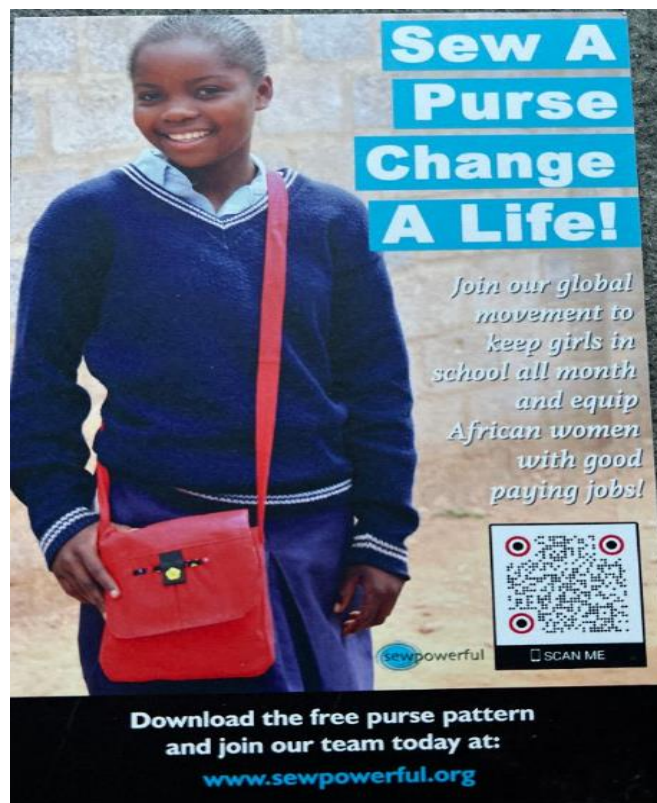
I think I have a lot of Ultimately fabulous opportunities.

Fidget quilts are due at the May meeting.

### - *Sheryl Briggs*

Powerful Purses presented by Sue Hersey will be the program for April. This is a workshop, and we will be sewing. Sue will tell us all about this wonderful program for young women. She is bringing 20 kits, including fabric, interfacing where needed, straps and a pattern. She has offered to bring her machine for anyone who would like to use it. Cutting boards and iron stations will be available. In addition, Sue will be offering information on how to inexpensively mail these purses to the girls who so desperately need them.

### - *Wendy Moore*



## **Membership/Hospitality**

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

We are coming to the end of the current year.

As stated in the Guild Policies, Membership dues must be made by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

In the past some members have paid their dues as late as the September meeting. Because we currently have only 4 openings and are getting requests by potential new members, we can no longer accept payment of dues after the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline .

Please either bring your \$35 check payable to Thimbles and Friends Quilt Guild to either the April 1<sup>st</sup> or May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, you may mail your check to Julia Blanchard, 27 Bridle Rd., Bridgewater, MA 02324. Julia is the new Treasurer as of September 2023. Thank you.

- *Phyllis Barry*

### **HOSPITALITY**

The other part of the job of the Membership/Hospitality Coordinator is to mail sympathy, get well and congratulation cards to members. I will also pass along the pertinent details to other members. Please email me when you or another member experiences the loss of a loved one, has surgery, an illness or when congratulations are in order (i.e. birth of a grandchild, marriage, the start a new job or retirement).

- *Phyllis Barry*

Membership/Hospitality

## **Meeting dates for Sept 2023 to May 2024**

Sept. 16	Jan 27
Oct. 7	March 2
Nov. 4	April 6
Dec. 2	May 4
Jan. 6	

*Pat McCollem*

## **Thank you**



I want to thank those of you that have sent me cards, emails and phone calls while I'm sitting here going crazy!

My surgery went well but I'm non weight bearing for 3 more weeks. So please all be careful with your dang rotary cutters. Rumor has it (Wendy Moore!) that I cut my foot off. Don't believe everything she has to say! See you all in May! ♥♥

- *Sue-Ellen*

## **Upcoming Quilt Shows**

### **Hands All Around 18 Quilt Show**

Saturday, April 22, 2023 10 AM – Sunday, April 23, 2023 Amherst, MA

### **Silver City Quilt Guild-Fall Harvest Festival Quilt show**

September 23 & 24, 2023 Taunton, MA

### **New England Quilt Expo LLC 2023**

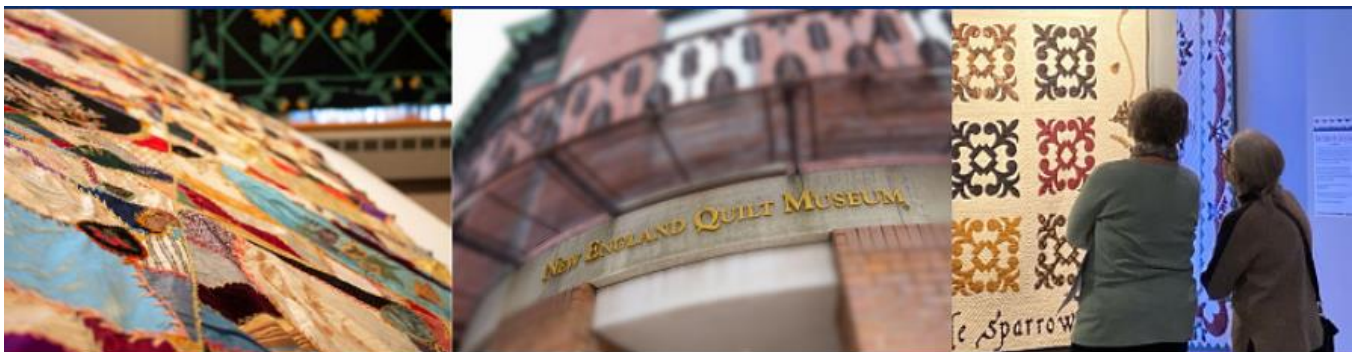
April 19-22, 2023 Manchester, NH

### **Herring Run "With These Hands" - 17th Biennial Quilt Show**

Saturday, September 21, 2024 10 AM - Sunday September 22, 2024 Marshfield, MA



\*Your guild membership card is required for free admittance to the quilt museum.



**It's Back!**  
**Summer Celebration of New England Quilts**  
**The Best of the Region's Quilt Guilds**  
**August 15 - September 9, 2023**  
[LEARN MORE](#)



I have attached the link on how to enter a quilt in the Summer Celebration at NEQM.

[https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001zU73YuZSzf72RiLsLjwuqp1Btc3oJtc5ha0ruH2Tbh203WwFF1JHv\\_cHfTcZoRM9Ub3zJOgkpdXYqUEXma8TbG3nphaZDX7oJeNYKBfNDpfcphO4xPjade0RltqzEkd1FtCEP\\_bTdyCOoEYCIEEVg-qtbfbxZLhFAaBlCor4B8pv2z2FEfMUciRnp\\_K3cc-8FCWvdMiFyEctMwYDiNkyIpj6XD6sdzjA4IPH0Tg\\_Q24P-xCTRYkg==&c=VrHHg4EqrWpPW0-lrpqo8HvuCJu-8-X3qCpOo0YDBMR3VODMF0ILyQ==&ch=jzbYEeExr2ec3zsDhGDwZMplI-L4LxlgI3l0PEDpSV4-IOFoEeXQ5Q==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001zU73YuZSzf72RiLsLjwuqp1Btc3oJtc5ha0ruH2Tbh203WwFF1JHv_cHfTcZoRM9Ub3zJOgkpdXYqUEXma8TbG3nphaZDX7oJeNYKBfNDpfcphO4xPjade0RltqzEkd1FtCEP_bTdyCOoEYCIEEVg-qtbfbxZLhFAaBlCor4B8pv2z2FEfMUciRnp_K3cc-8FCWvdMiFyEctMwYDiNkyIpj6XD6sdzjA4IPH0Tg_Q24P-xCTRYkg==&c=VrHHg4EqrWpPW0-lrpqo8HvuCJu-8-X3qCpOo0YDBMR3VODMF0ILyQ==&ch=jzbYEeExr2ec3zsDhGDwZMplI-L4LxlgI3l0PEDpSV4-IOFoEeXQ5Q==)

## On View now

# The Best of Quilting in Canada

A JURIED EXHIBITION FROM THE CANADIAN  
QUILTERS ASSOCIATION

On view January 17 through May 6, 2023

EXPLORE

[Related Public Program](#)



From the collection of Mary Kerr

# Southern Quilts

CELEBRATING TRADITIONS, HISTORY, AND  
DESIGNS

On view January 17 through April 15, 2023

Mary Kerr, Guest Curator

EXPLORE

[Related Public Program](#)

# Northern Comfort

New England Quilts from the Permanent Collection

On View Now Through April 22, 2023



## The Topsfield Fair Seeks Quiltmakers

The Topsfield Fair is offering space free of charge for quilt-making demonstrations at this year's fair, September 29 through October 9, 2023. This is an opportunity to help educate inspiring quilters and perhaps recruit some new guild members. If your guild is interested in participating, even for a portion of the fair, **please respond directly to the following contact:**

**Kate O'Brien, Concessions & Vendor Manger**  
Topsfield Fair  
Phone: 978.887.5000 ext. 12  
Email: [kate@topsfieldfair.org](mailto:kate@topsfieldfair.org)  
[www.topsfieldfair.org](http://www.topsfieldfair.org)

- Wendy Moore



## **Membership Contributions**

### Washing Precuts

Because I always wash and dry my fabrics before using them, I typically don't use precuts. Not to mention, if you figure out cost per yard for a package of precuts, well, it's enough to make your hair hurt. And that doesn't include the background fabric. However on a couple of occasions, I threw my concerns (and credit card) to the winds for a pattern and layer cake from one of my favorite designers, Robin Pickens. After all, I rationalized, I've been pretty much housebound for five months and this yummy line of purple pansies was my reward. Right? Right! So, in the sink they went, then rolled in a towel to remove excess water, a few minutes in the dryer, and ironed dry.



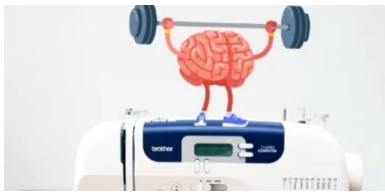
A couple of days later on my FB page, Quilting Digest shared another method for washing precuts. Check out this YouTube link from Laura Ann Coia of Sew Very Easy. She uses a lettuce spinner! Does it work? I have no clue, but perhaps someone might like to give it a try.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02S22-ri2EQ>

Hope to see you all next meeting!

- Jill Lillie





# 5 Reasons Sewing is Good for the Aging Brain

## 1. Sewing is Cheaper than Therapy

A recent study found that out of several stress-reducing activities, like playing cards, painting, reading, and **sewing**, the latter actually takes the cake as the most relaxing. Sewing can be your sweet escape from the things in your day that make you the most stressed.

## 2. Advances Hand-Eye Coordination

**Sewing**, knitting, quilting, and other related activities play a “helping hand” in your hand-eye coordination. You will enhance and advance your motor skills through the attention-to-detail required. Watch as you improve on other everyday tasks as well!

## 3. The Craftroom is my Happy Place

While you’re sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, or crafting just about anything else, your brain rewards you with a nice boost in dopamine, AKA, your happy hormone! Your reward comes even before the task is completed.

## 4. Get Your Brain in the Gym

Like the rest of your body, your brain needs exercise to stay in good shape. **Sewing** keeps your brain active and concentrated, which might even boost your memory! Forget about forgetting, sewing has the power to lower the risk of dementia.

The act of constantly trying something different or learning new tricks, patterns, and methods opens many brain doors. Sewing has been shown to encourage the formation of new neurons in the brain due to the repeated creative thinking process.

## 5. Goodnight, Sleep Tight

Exercising your brain during the day by **sewing** pushes it into well-deserved sleep at night. If you’re awake again at 3 am, though, use sewing to reset by working on any sewing project for a while. Then go back to sleep. Sleeplessness gone, project done!

Sewing is meant to be fun, pain-free and stress-free, regardless of age. Now that you know these benefits, I bet you never want to quit!

<https://madamsew.com/pages/5-reasons-sewing-is-good-for-you-kc>

- Submitted by Joyce

## Quilt Fabric and Colors from 1940 to 1959

Cheerios and M&M's! What a combination! But these two items were favorites being produced in the early 1940's. Families were beginning to find solace and comfort, feeling that the depression was over. Unfortunately, a different kind of change to the world was beginning - World War II, and the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Technology was beginning to change family lifestyles as the microwave was introduced, and the Polaroid camera was invented. People were ready for a new phase in life after the last two decades, but were unprepared just how rigidly life would change. Women's lives were changed drastically as they found they had no choice but to work outside the home. The idea of glamour, fashions, and home decorating was pushed aside.

Magazines still published some quilt patterns within their pages, but most often the quilt patterns had to be purchased through the magazine ads. Both kits and individual patterns were available for purchase. Rural newspapers still published weekly and monthly full pattern quilt designs. Entering quilts into town fairs was a favorite pastime for avid quilters as they coveted that first-place blue ribbon!

During and after the war, quilting wasn't very popular. Once the war was over, society began to slowly become affluent again, and women wanted to show off this affluence by buying "products" of all kinds to show off: everything from kitchen products, clothing, and home decor - which included store bought bedding with matching curtains, bed skirt and lace pillows. The stuff of movies! This fall away from quilting lasted into the late 1950's.



This didn't mean that no one made quilts, but vintage quilts from the 1940's and 1950's (even into the 1960's!) are not as prevalent as vintage quilts hand made from the 1930's. It's considered quite a coup to find one in a garage sale or a great-aunt's attic! It's also often difficult to distinguish between fabrics from the 40's and 50's. There are a few clues to look for.

During the war in the early 1940's, fabric that was produced was very limited. Solid colors for clothing were a staple. But the colors of solid and print fabrics quickly leaned away from the pastels of the 1930's to more vibrant colors led by the reds, whites, and blues of Uncle Sam.





Classic prints: Plaids in different sizes in muted colors were made with wool fiber, and used in children's school clothing. These wool plaid fabrics later became warm and heavy quilts. Narrow stripes, always a popular fabric choice, were usually found on a white background. And the small checks of gingham were still used as fillers in homemade quilts.

Polka dots were very common in the 1940's. You could find them in two or three sizes, but most women liked the smaller dots for clothing, and then in quilts. Colored dots on white background was the most common. As the dots grew somewhat larger through the decade, women became crazy over polka-dot dresses!

A favorite clue to know if you are looking at a quilt from the 1940's is the size of the flowers. Flowers were very common but were often small or medium in size. The colors were vibrant, but were not always realistic! Floral prints from this era often had a look about them that was called a "painter's brush" view. Flowers appear to look like they came from an artist's sketchbook.



1950's - The height of prosperity for families after two decades of struggles! The nation exploded in new cars, new appliances, and new homes in what would become known as the suburbs. Women enjoyed the ability to purchase stylish and elegant clothing, and portraying the most current fashions.

America became involved in the Korean War, and McCarthyism. Always on the mind of most men and women was the peril of possible nuclear war, but it didn't stop the growth of the good life. You could find "The Tonight Show" and "I Love Lucy" on TV, and the "Peanuts" comic [strip](#) in the newspaper. The world talked about Rosa Parks, James Dean, Jonas Salk, and Elvis Presley. Everyone felt like nothing could stop the boom of well-being.

Although quilting still wasn't a big part of the everyday woman's daily activity as they didn't feel the need to create bed quilts, some women still loved the art of creating the colorful coverings. Like vintage 1940's quilts, finding a vintage 1950's handmade quilt is a treasure.

Sewing machines made in the 1950's had more stitches available for the seamstress, and came with special feet that made quilting and sewing in general much easier. Quilt patterns were designed and sold by popular pattern publishers in fabric stores, and you could now find "how to" quilt books in stores and libraries. Quilting was now seen as a hobby by suburban and city dwelling women. Rural and farming women still used quilting as a necessity.

Fabric prints of the 1950's became vibrant, expressive, and a bit quirky. As television and movie westerns became a favorite with families, fabric manufacturers began producing cotton with elaborate cowboys, horses, and western scenes. As interest in outer space gained momentum, space inspired fabric was produced with astronauts, spaceships, planets, and atomic-looking galaxies.



A fun wave of fabric became trendy quite fast when prints showing everyday kitchen appliances and futuristic kitchenware were originated. The look of these prints often tied in with the abstract galaxy features of the era. Flowers were large and bold. Some still had that air-brushed look, but most were realistic looking. Prints with roses and fruits were also quite popular.

A Few quilts from Rhododendron Quilt show- "A Community of Quilters"



Submitted by Wendy Foley



