

THIMBLES & FRIENDS QUILTING GUILD



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April 2004

The Board Meeting

The Board of the Thimbles and Friends Guild met recently and spent several hours pouring over the results of the recent survey. This was very helpful in determining where the interests of the guild members lie, which activities are popular, what we can do differently etc. Future programming will be made with all of these suggestions in mind. However, if you didn't fill out a survey or if you have more to say, be sure to let us know. As we discussed at our last meeting, we want input from people about what our guild should be.

Based upon the information we received, the Board has made some decisions. One of the things we want to do is keep business at the meetings to a bare minimum, thus this newsletter becomes more important as a way of information getting into the hands of members. Please read it carefully and keep it around for reference. The newsletter is published 3 times a year: in August prior to our first meeting in September, in December, and in April.

As always, if you have items you think would be of general interest to the other guild members, please contact Paula Whalen and she will be happy to put it in the newsletter.

N.E. Quilt Museum

The Spring meeting for guild reps was held Mar. 31 at the N.E. Quilt Museum in Lowell. About forty members were in attendance to enjoy a lovely luncheon and view the current exhibit on machine quilted quilts. If you have a chance to see this exhibit, please do. It is spectacular including examples by Diane Gaudinsky, Harriet Hargrave, Linda Taylor and others. These were some of the winning quilts that are just unbelievable!

The museum is very interest in how it can make the local guilds more involved and has planned many activities. It's website NEQUILTMUSEUM.ORG has a lot of information and most questions can be answered with a quick phone call. For a small membership fee you have access to their extensive library. Books can be mailed out for a small postage fee and they are happy to do research if you have questions. They have all the computer quilt programs set up and you can test drive any of them before you buy. Once a year there is a yard sale and they accept donations of magazines and books for that. If you can volunteer ever one day a month you'll be entitled to a 20% discount in their gift shop.

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Charity Quilts

Please remember that Charity Quilts are due at the May meeting. Our recipient for this years quilts is Old Colony Hospice. Sheryl Briggs has designed a label. If you'd like one for your charity quilt, please contact her directly regarding price, etc. We are looking for a charity recipient for next year. Current plans are to continue to have the January meeting as the all day charity workshop day. If you know of a place that would be a good recipient for charity quilts, please bring it up at the May meeting so contact can be made. Also, we need a guild member to volunteer to coordinate the charity quilt project for next year.

COLOR! May Workshop

We are pleased to announce that Pat Delaney will teach a workshop at our May meeting on color. The workshop focuses on the use of a special color palette tool (a color wheel that's not actually a wheel and much more useful!). The Board has decided that guild members who wish to participate in workshops pay a small fee of \$5.00 to defray costs. This new policy will be in effect for this workshop. See COLOR YOUR QUILTS for supply list.



Much of the last Board meeting dealt with reviewing results of the survey and making decisions based upon those results. We thought guild members would be interested in the survey results:

The Board thought that the suggestion of having 2 meetings per month was not a good one because everyone would come to the "sewing" meeting and no one would come to the "business" meeting. We will try to put more information into the newsletter and streamline the business portion of the regular meeting to leave more time for sewing.

On the survey, eight people said they were interested in doing a Round Robin, 5 said they were not, others no response. We thought that we could ask for a volunteer to coordinate this and those who want to do it could and those who didn't wouldn't have to, but we shouldn't spend a lot of guild time dealing with the details if only a few people are involved.

Charity quilt: solid support, 25 said yes, a few people even said we should do more, a few others said we should do charity quilts on alternate years. The consensus was we should keep the same commitment we currently have and we should solicit from the guild members suggestions for future recipients. The Board decided we would keep the January meeting date as an all-day charity workshop day.

Seventeen of the responders said they wanted to keep the Challenge Quilt, 6 said no (BTW, this is about the number of people who usually participate in the challenges). We will keep the challenge as an activity and solicit volunteers to organize the next one.

Block of the Month (BOTM). Eighteen people said they wanted the block of the month, some indicating that the blocks should go to charity. We discussed the problem of differing sizes for the BOTM experienced when other guilds do this activity. We decided that we would have a BOTM pattern available each month to distribute to members to do if they wish, with the suggestion they accumulate the blocks for use in a charity, etc. We will not draw for the blocks, and each person will just make their own. We will ask for a volunteer to coordinate this starting in September.

Fat Quarters 23 people supported this. No "no's" listed.

Most people either left the question of having a Secret Sister blank or said no.

Monthly quilting tip. We thought this was a good idea, but instead of taking guild time for this, we will put items in the newsletter. We will encourage people to send Paula good tips and she will use them under a special "Tips" feature.

Yankee Swap 14 in favor, for holiday party only. 7 no's.

Marathon Sewing Day 22 said yes. Some suggested adding an extra meeting for this, some suggested we do this every other month. No decision made on this at this time.

Raffle Quilt. 18 people said yes, we should have a raffle quilt, but only 11 people said they would sell raffle tickets or white glove at events where we would have the raffle quilt on display. The Board discussed this problem at length. The discussion about a raffle quilt lead to discussion about funding activities for the guild. It was suggested that instead of requiring members to spend time they don't have doing things like white gloving, etc., we could have them pay towards workshops and the retreat. If each person paid \$5 for a workshop, that would go towards the cost of the workshop. If each person paid some money towards the retreat, we wouldn't have to worry about raffle quilts, etc. For example, our treasurer pointed out that the cost per person for the retreat this year was only \$40 (plus the cost of their hotel room). That's actually very reasonable, as some guilds charge their members several times that for the expense of the retreat. It's important for guild members to realize there is a trade-off and either we earn the money with a group activity, such as a raffle quilt, or we pay small amounts individually. The Board decided that we will charge a minimal amount (\$5) for workshops and we will talk about the issue of charging something for the retreat at a future meeting (well in advance of the next retreat).

Regarding our current raffle quilt now being completed, we will inquire about having the required number of white gloves reduced at Images, if not, we will not show it there and have it only at The Gathering, which does not require white gloves in exchange for display of the raffle quilts. We would still solicit volunteers to work the raffle table. We will not show the quilt at the show in Manchester, as they too require white gloves.



Six responders to the survey indicated they would be interested in a Documentation Day, while 8 said no, but Diane noted that she thought people did not understand what it is. She explained that the guild hosts a day (at the library, presumably) where members from the community can come and have their quilts documented by staff from the New England Quilt Museum. This would be a community service project. The guild would be responsible for advertising it, coordinating with the NEQM staff, etc. The Board decided to hold off on a decision on this for the time being.

Quilt show had 25 positive votes. We decided that we will ask for 3 volunteers to form a Quilt Show Restructuring Committee. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on this).

Seventeen people supported the idea of having a quilt auction during a guild meeting to raise money for the guild. However, when the Board started talking about what type of items might be required, etc. it seemed this was something to shelve for the time being and discuss at a later date.

Fourteen members said we should financially support the New England Quilt Museum, while four said no. The Board decided that this is definitely something we want to continue to do. Right now we pay a nominal fee (\$15) for the membership to the auxiliary that gets us the Quilt Fun email newsletter and we plan on giving the proceeds from one of the two monthly fat quarter raffles to the Museum. We also gave the Museum free advertising space in our show book for our last quilt show and had their flyers available on the flyer table. We received an invitation to send a member to the lunch meeting at the Museum on March 31. Linda will send out an email to guild members asking for volunteers (NOTE: Pat Delaney is the only person who volunteered to go; she will represent Thimbles & Friends at this luncheon).

Seventeen people said they liked the idea of a quilting/sewing bee, 13 were in favor of a trip to the Cranston Mills (which would have to be during the week), only 9 thought a trip to Lowell would be good, 13 supported a trip to Lancaster, 12 to Sturbridge and 18 to Keepsake. The Board briefly discussed these and thought perhaps a Cranston trip could be arranged for over the summer and that we would look into booking a bus to go to Keepsake sometime next year.

Guild members overwhelming said they wanted guild-taught demos and some outside teachers, as long as they were "GOOD" ones, that guild members were willing to pay a small amount for workshops, that there should be at least one, preferably two workshops per year, and that a stipend should be set for guild instructors. Members wanted exposure to new techniques. Suggested topics for demos included: machine quilting, machine piecing, double wedding ring instruction, invisible appliqué, different types of thread and what is good to use when, techniques for making labels, use of color (we are having this in May 2004), new gadgets, cutting instruction, binding techniques

Ten members said they did not want the guild meetings to be social sewing situations, while 7 said they did want this. No Board action taken on this item.

Fourteen guild members thought that we should organize more group projects.

Nearly everyone said they liked the Plymouth location for the retreat with many asking the addition of a Thursday evening. There were some suggestions that we have a retreat twice a year, more said once a year, and some people supported the concept of a mini-retreat (sew-a-thon?). Some suggested we pay fees for prizes to be given out at the retreat.

COLOR YOUR QUILTS

For this workshop you will need a few supplies. Please bring:

Scissors glue stick pen & paper small mat rotary cutter

Optional: mini iron & extension cord, ironing pad, towel

Optional: Ott light

3 in 1 color tool (or any color wheel if you don't have that)

COLOR PLAY by Joen Wolfrom

Scrap bag—lots of fabric—you can use solids or tone-on-tone that reads as a solid color. Many examples of your favorite color including lights, darks, mediums, greys, and "odd" colors. These can be fat quarters down to tiny scraps.

This will be a workshop that shows you how to choose your colors for a quilt. We'll start at the beginning by explaining about color and use the 3 in 1 color tool to illustrate combinations that will work with fabric. We will practice a number of ways to use color to make a great looking quilts in your own style.

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Officers for 2003 - 2004

Co -Chairs	Secretary
Carolyn Anderson	Linda Newberry
Nancy Moynihan	
Co-Treasurers	Members-at-large
Sandy Brawders	Karen Bozek
Joyce Hochstrasser	Claudia Cummings
Co-Program Coordinators	Newsletter
Editor	Paula Whalen
Pat Kriensky	
Diane Piechowski	

MEMBERSHIP

A reminder, payment of membership dues will take place at the May meeting. If you cannot attend that meeting but intend to renew your membership, please contact our treasurers Joyce Hochstrasser and Sandy Brawders to make arrangements. If we have any openings for next year we would like to contact the people on our waiting list and let them know so they can be prepared to join us in September.

Speaking of the waiting list, a copy will be on display at the May meet in case you are wondering where any of your friends who have signed up might be.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

At our January meeting the guild decided that we would adopt a "discussion topic" for each guild meeting until our list of suggestions from fall 2003 was addressed. Notes from the January meeting were printed for members to pick up at the March meeting. Please note that these notes are merely that and are printed with the intention of trying to keep all members informed of discussions. While I try to get everything, I don't take shorthand and these notes are informational only... not verbatim! Thanks, Linda

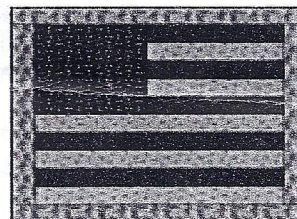
Following are the notes from the March discussion topic of "planning programming."

Notes from discussion topic on 3/6/04: planning programs.

Guild said they wanted to have workshops a couple of times a year, that it would be ok for members to be charged a small fee for the class, but that the teacher should be informed that all members who want to take the class should be accommodated (i.e., all 30 members. Workshop cannot be limited to 20, etc.) Guild discussed whether to have meetings twice a month, one for sewing & one for business, or have a business meeting only a couple of times a year. Wendy Moore mentioned she knows of a place where we could have meetings if the library is not available. The guild also discussed having minutes at every meeting, but the consensus was that this would be too time consuming and that maybe minutes of guild meetings could be included in the newsletter. The Board will continue to make programming decisions based upon input from guild members. Guild members should be proactive in their membership, making sure they read the newsletter, find out what happened at meetings they miss, etc. The members agreed that discussion of quilt show business should be separate from regular guild meetings. The members were asked to please fill out the surveys as the Board will be meeting soon to work on next year's program and encouraged guild members to indicate whether they would volunteer to coordinate those activities they are interested in.

BOTM

One of the suggestions that was popularly supported on our recent survey was having a Block of the Month (BOTM). It has been decided that starting in September, we will have a BOTM. We will not, however, be drawing for the blocks, as some guilds do. Our BOTM is a pattern that will be provided each month that you are encouraged to try. After you have several months worth of patterns done, you might find that you have enough to put together for your charity quilt! Or maybe you will wait until the entire quilt guild season is over and then put all nine blocks together for the next quilt show or as a special gift for someone. Participation in the BOTM is purely up to you. We would like someone to volunteer to coordinate this activity for 2004-05. What this means is that you find a pattern to present each month, print of 30 copies (see the treasurers if you





Ten Elements of Design

By Irma Gail Hatcher

1. Combine two ideas. Pieced & appliquéd blocks provide interest. If you use 2 pieced blocks, make sure they have the same basic construction (9 patch, 4 patch, etc.)
Choose blocks that have interesting corners. Many times having 2 interesting corners come together makes for a beautiful secondary pattern.
Maybe the 2 ideas are not the blocks themselves, but elements within the blocks (different sizes of the same flower, etc.)
2. Try for diagonal lines. The eye tends to follow lines. Diagonal lines are especially interesting because they indicate movement. Setting a square on point creates 4 diagonal lines. The addition of borders around blocks set on point also creates movement and forces the eyes to look at the whole surface of the quilt.
3. Vary the background color
Adding a second background color can emphasize a certain area or add visual interest.
4. Use part or all of the block for your border
Pieced or appliquéd borders are generally more quilt-enhancing than plain borders. A design in the central part of the quilt can be repeated in the outside border. It can be reduced or enlarged, or cut in half vertically, horizontally or diagonally.
5. Repeat each design. Repetition is a key design element. Central block or appliqué designs should be repeated elsewhere. Vary the block or appliqué design by enlarging it, reducing it, or fitting a portion of it into a particular space on the quilt. Repetition enhances design continuity.
6. Use Block or applique designs as quilting patterns
Always look to the quilt for quilting design inspiration. Using design elements over and over reinforces what the quilt is about. Repeating applique designs in quilting stitches adds continuity. Sometimes only a portion of the design is used in the quilting design.
The same is true for pieced quilt designs. The whole block, or part of it, can be used as a quilting design for an outside border or for alternating plain blocks.
7. Repeat the quilting design. Repeating the quilting design in more than one place also adds continuity.
8. Use each fabric more than once. Try to use each fabric twice, once in the central part of the quilt and again in the outer border.
9. Always select fabrics with dark, medium & light values
A mix of dark, medium, and light value fabric is essential for dramatic, visually effective quilts. Dark is especially important for contrast. Also, the center of a medallion should always be dark. If the center of a medallion is light, it gives the illusion that there is a hole in the middle of the quilt.
10. Select colors for a quilt by using a theme fabric. A theme fabric is one with several different colors in it. Use it to select other fabrics to go into the quilt. Don't worry about "matching" the colors...expand the options by selecting hues darker or lighter than the one found in the focus fabric. For example, if there is medium pink in your focus fabric, using four or more colors of light pink to burgundy might be added...this will create a richness that one lone pink can not achieve. If you use the focus fabric to select your color palette, you will find the fabrics go together well in your quilt...even if you end up not using the focus fabric in the finished quilt at all!



Schedule 2004-2-005

Round Robin

The schedule for our meetings for next year looks a little different than usual. There are a couple of reasons for this. On two occasions the first Saturday of the month will not work out for our meeting. In September, the library is not open on the first Saturday and in November, the first Saturday is the weekend the Gathering is scheduled. As we don't want to have people choose between the guild or going to The Gathering, we decided to change the guild meeting date for that month as well. SO, the schedule for next year looks as follows.

A few guild members said they are interested in doing a Round Robin. Since the interest in this does not include a majority of the guild members, we do not want to use guild time to coordinate this, but want to encourage those who are interested, as this can be a very fun and rewarding experience. So, for those who wish to participate in a Round Robin, please try to arrange to stay for 15 minutes after the conclusion of the May meeting to discuss the format we might want to use for this venture.

Please mark you calendars!

September 11	Show & Tell, Block of the Month
October 2	Inspiration Day—member participation
November 13	Thread & Needle program—Mary Garland from Ann's Fabrics
December 4	Holiday Party
January 8	Marathon Day—Charity workshop
February 5	Radisson Retreat (already contacted them to hold the weekend for us and to work out package deals which would include rooms and/or meals, and the possibility of adding Thursday.)
March 5	Marathon Day—Workshop on Mini Quilts for show
April 2	Teach/workshop - perhaps setting up for quilt show
May 7	Dues due, board election, plan for quilt show

NEWSLETTER INFO

Do you have info you think the guild members would be interested in? Do you know of someone who does excellent quilting for hire? Have you read a particularly good quilting book lately? Share it in the newsletter! Please feel free to give Paula Whalen the information or send it to her via e-mail at pjwhalen145@yahoo.com. Also, please feel free to offer any feed back on the newsletter format. Did I leave anything out? Is there something you think I should add? Thanks for you input.
Paula J. Whalen, newsletter editor.