

# THIMBLES & FRIENDS QUILTING GUILD

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December 2003

## LUCKY WINNERS ARE THRILLED AT THEIR GOOD FORTUNE

October 19 was a lucky day for Bev Conway-Vogel and Angela Carrey. They are the winners of the raffles for the 2003 quilt and the Viking sewing machine (respectively) drawn at the conclusion of "The Story is in the Stitches" Quilt Show. Guild member Kathy Young, a very good friend of Bev's reports that she was extremely excited with her winning the quilt and is now considering redecorating one of her bedrooms to go with the quilt as the central decorating theme.

Alison was hyperventilating after hearing of her good fortune. She said she bought \$10 worth of tickets for the machine at the show on Saturday, Oct. 18 and put her name on half and her sister's name on the other half. Isn't it fitting that since Alison paid for the tickets, she's the one who won?! She picked up her machine Sunday evening and expressed her gratitude to the guild. "I have an old machine that I haven't been able to afford to get repaired," she told Linda Newberry. "This is such a gift!"

Goodies - food & otherwise!

Our December meeting will be the normal meeting times (10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and will be our annual holiday party. Along with our Yankee Swap (quilt-related item, \$20 price range), we will have a pot-luck, show & tell, & the announcement of the new challenge.

## 2003-04 Challenge!

Linda Newberry volunteered to coordinate this year's challenge, the rules of which will be announced at the December meeting. If you cannot attend that meeting, please let Linda know and she will mail you the info and the challenge fabric so you don't have to wait until the January meeting to get started. The challenges are fun and ...well....challenging!

## Programming Updates

The Board decided to cancel the Nancy Prince lecture/workshop for May. If you have ideas for a program to replace it, please let Diane Piechowski and Pat Kriensky know as soon as possible. Do you have a technique you'd be willing to demo? Do you know of something you'd like to see? We will also soon be talking about programs for next year and it is vital that we have input from our members. Some of the comments that came in with suggestions for the quilt show included having guild members more involved in the decision-making process about programs. We can only make sure we have the programs you want if you speak up and let us know what you are interested in! In case you're too shy to speak up at a guild meeting, we plan to continue to have some type of suggestion box available at each meeting.

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## Charity Workshop

Following a discussion of our quilt show, the January meeting will be day-long charity workshop. Our two intended recipients are the hospice in Scituate and the New England Quilt Museum. The hospice needs quilts for all ages and genders and the Quilt Museum needs small items they can sell in their museum shop (table runners, wall hangings, etc.).





### Thimbles & Friends 2004 Retreat

Don't forget our next retreat is set for February 6-8 at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth located at 189 Water Street. Room rates per standard room, per night single or double are \$80.00, plus tax. There is a \$15.00 per person additional charge for the third or fourth adult in a room. Rollaway beds are available for a charge of \$10.00

You need to call the Radisson Hotel's reservation department, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00AM and 5PM, to make your reservation. Individual reservations must be made by January 6th, and be guaranteed by a major credit card or check for the first night's accommodation. Request for room after this date will be honored on a space available basis at prevailing hotel rates. Deposits can only be refunded if cancellation is made prior to three (3) days of your arrival. Guild members will be responsible for payment of their room, plus all taxes and incidental charges.

There is a 72-hour reservation cancel. Should you need to cancel within the 72 hours of arrival, or arrive on a date later than originally specified, you will be forfeited your deposit equal to one night's room rate. Check in time is after 3:00PM and check out time is prior to 11:00AM.

I have heard only wonderful things about the Radisson working with other guilds. This should be a fun and exciting week-end for us. Happy thoughts of quilting for two days and don't forget to make your reservation!!

### Brush Art Gallery and Studios Art Quilts of New England

Art Quilts/New England is a juried biennial exhibition organized by the Brush Art Gallery and Studios to identify and encourage regional quilt artists. As one of the events of the Lowell Quilt Festival to be held August 5 -8, 2004 this exhibition provides and overview of some of the finest art quilts being produced in the New England area. Quilters from New England are encouraged to enter their art work. If interested, please see Paula Whalen for more information.

### Quilt Show 2003 Review Ongoing

Dear Members,

At our meeting of Saturday, November 3 the Guild voted to spend the first part of our January meeting doing a review of the quilt show. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find suggestions made to date. It's not too late to add your thoughts...bring them with you to the meeting in January!

As I mentioned at our November meeting, our vendors were thrilled with the hospitality we provided them and for the most part were happy with their sales during the show. The survey has been mailed out and hopefully we'll have the replies back prior to our January meeting so that we can incorporate any suggestions into our discussion.

One item that I should report on that occurred during the show: On Friday evening, in the midst of the chaos of setting up the show & vendors, Bill from Sew & Vac approached me to say that he was giving us a rack of Robinson-Anton threads with a value of \$300 for an additional raffle item (it's actually not a full rack, but a very generous and wonderful gift, none-the-less). I thanked him and told him I'd get it from him in the morning. I spoke with a couple of Board members I grabbed on the fly and told them of it and asked what we should do...our raffle table was overflowing between the baskets, sewing machine and quilt, we didn't have tickets or signage prepared for the thread. It seemed too valuable a prize to put in the door prizes. On Saturday morning I went to Bill and asked him if it would be ok if we held off on the thread until we could properly organize a raffle for it and get the most benefit...initially he seemed reluctant, but then said yes that would be fine. So, in my capacity as co-chair of the show that's the on-the-spot decision I made. We'll need to decide how we want to use this wonderful gift. I'll bring it to the January meeting so everyone can see it.

Regards,  
Linda Newberry





## FROM THE SUGGESTION BOX

### FIRST AND FOREMOST:

- 1.) All deadlines must be established and met.
  - a. Put more emphasis on deadlines so that each person's job is easier
- 2.) All members must participate in the show to make it happen. Besides any job they have volunteered for as quilt show prep, all members need to plan on volunteering at least 1 full day or two half days during the show as it takes a minimum of 15-16 people to run the show at any time. (Admissions-2, Raffle-2, Demo-2, White Glovers-4, Mini-auction 1-2, Boutique 2-3, Floaters-2)

### QUILT SHOW-general ideas:

- 1.) Use an easel at front door with list of vendors and list of demos & times.
- 2.) Use an easel with a arrow to show "Vendors" - that way, "Quilts" - that way.
- 3.) No parking in front of building by guild members during the show.
- 4.) Guild members should not be allowed to vend at the show.
- 5.) Guild members should be allowed to vend at the show.
- 6.) If guild members who wish to vend at show have already performed their show-related job and keep some time available to assist during show hours, they should definitely be allowed to vend...we should support our fellow-members entrepreneurial efforts!
- 7.) Rotate jobs from one quilt show to another.
- 8.) Annually take a group photo of the guild to display at the show.
- 9.) Through the use of a digital camera, photograph the show for the scrapbook.
- 10.) I got many compliments on the show, the vignettes, and how happy the guild members were to be there!
- 11.) We definitely should do another show in 2005.
- 12.) Be realistic about scheduling your time. I volunteered for so many hours I didn't allow for lunch or time to show friends and family around the show. Therefore, I screwed up some of my shifts.
- 13.) I think the advertising helped us tremendously. I had a table at a craft fair at the same school several years ago and there was a poor turn-out. They did not do much advertising.
- 14.) I really enjoyed our show.
- 15.) People in charge of certain jobs should have the right to do that job the way they see fit and there shouldn't be second-guessing. If you don't approve of the way a certain job was done, volunteer to do it yourself next time.

### DISPLAY:

- 1.) We need more black sheets for behind wall hangings. 50-60 would be great. (several people said this)
- 2.) Wipe poles before inserting into quilt sleeves.
- 3.) All quilts must have a 3" sleeve.
- 4.) We should have a guild meeting before the next show where we go over ways to make sure your quilts are ready to be displayed (snip threads, clean off animal hairs, blocking, label ideas, etc.)
- 5.) Guild members should cooperate with the Registrars in taking their quilt entries back after the show... they were signed in...they should be signed out
- 6.) Get more white gloves (our white gloves have been disappearing over the years) so we can offer them to people who just have to touch.
- 7.) Find a way to tape or anchor the poles to the hooks. I had one experience where I think the woman had lifted one of the lower quilts to look at the back and the pole came right off the hooks and fell on the floor. I did not see what happened and she took off before I could see who it was and say something.





- 8.) All of my perceptions about this show were positive. The viewers all were very positive about their experience...I heard only favorable comments.
- 9.) Make the vending machines in the gym inoperable (maybe just by putting out of order signs on them).

**QUILT RACKS:**

- 1.) Establish a Quilt Rack Coordinator position for the next show.
- 2.) A rack coordinator should be responsible for pick up AND return of racks, plus recruiting the people necessary to set them up and take them down, making sure that the proper equipment is on hand.
- 3.) Have the transportation from the show in place before the show.
- 4.) Decide on rental or fabrication of racks for next show.
- 5.) I don't think the cost of rental of these racks was extreme. I think we should continue to rent them rather than spend money on making our own and then have to find a place to store them.
- 6.) I thought these racks were alright.

**RAFFLE QUILT/SEWING MACHINE/BASKET RAFFLE:**

- 1.) One bank to start show for all three items and then individual baskets for tickets.
- 2.) Give credit to guild and person(s) who made quilt with a sign on the raffle quilt. "Fabric donated by guild members, Pieced by . . . . ." and professional quilter if one is used.
- 3.) If guild members donate blocks for a raffle quilt and they are not used, where do they go? Can we make another quilt with the extras or use them for a charity quilt?
- 4.) Raffle quilt should be made by all members of the guild.
- 5.) Raffle quilts should be a joint effort and appeal to the average viewer.
- 6.) Raffles were well-patronized. I like the idea of baskets, using donated items.

**MINI-QUILT AUCTION:**

- 1.) This display would benefit from two racks with black sheets.
- 2.) Printed bid sheets would look nice.
- 3.) All members should provide at least one mini for the auction so we have 30 mini's to auction.
- 4.) Explanation of mini, how we raise money.
- 5.) Start mini-quilts at the retreat. Have a "Mini Hour" so that after two retreats we would have 60 mini's to auction.
- 6.) If you don't donate a mini, would you be willing to donate money to the auction?
- 7.) Starting bid should be above \$5.00, maybe \$20.00.
- 8.) Silent auction not a big draw.
- 9.) Silent auction should continue as it does make money from donated goods.

**DOOR PRIZES:**

- 1.) We should distribute an even number of door prizes on each day.
- 2.) Door prizes should be completely separate from admissions.
- 3.) Have one person in charge of collecting all door prizes, then turn it over to the admissions table people to distribute as they think appropriate.
- 4.) Sewing Machine vendor donated a large assortment of threads with a spool rack to be used as a door prize, but it was not used as a door prize. How shall we treat this issue?

**DEMOS:**

- 1.) Offer a more visible location for demos. Closer to front of show.
- 2.) Incorporate sewing machine vendor into demos.
- 3.) Demo coordinator should make sure there is always a demo happening.
- 4.) Each demo area needs signs stating what is being done by that guild member like, "Yo-Yo Demo", then place signage in plastic easel for display with member doing the demo.
- 5.) Area would benefit from a more professional looking sign indicating demo times



**CHALLENGE QUILTS:**

- 1.) Challenge quilts, due on April 1<sup>st</sup>, should be completed by then in order to be included in judging.
- 2.) Every member should have a chance to initiate a challenge idea (then continue on a rotating basis with different members).

**SHOWBOOKS:**

- 1.) All showbook ads should have a border around them as some ads run together in this book.
- 2.) Each entry could have two descriptions – one short description for book and one longer version for signage.
- 3.) Print our own list of quilt entries without the book/ads to reduce size of book.
- 4.) make sure the vendor list gets in the showbook
- 5.) The timing of our showbook deadlines in September may not be the best situation for Matt & Pat De-laney (as Matt is a dept. head and teacher at Whitman-Hanson Regional).
- 6.) Eliminate showbook all together.

**JUDGING:**

- 1.) Add a category for "Professional Quilter" for those members who teach classes.
- 2.) Add a category for "Amateur" or "New to Quilting".
- 3.) Quilts previously judged in other shows and have won ribbons, should be recognized but excluded from our judging categories.
- 4.) Only quilts which have previously appeared in one of our shows should be excluded...whether or not they have been in other shows should NOT be a deterrent.
- 5.) The quilt owners should be anonymous to the judge.
- 6.) All judged quilts should have written scribe reports not just a verbal report if you are present at the judging.
- 7.) Forms should be provided (either by guild or judge) to reduce writing for scribes as many comments from the judge were similar.
- 8.) Vendor choice should be eliminated.
- 9.) Runner-up ribbons needed.
- 10.) Judging should be eliminated all together.
- 11.) Everyone would benefit from having a quilt judged.
- 12) Quilt should be judged in the condition it was received (no thread cutting at judging, for example)
- 13) Establish a position of Judge Coordinator.
- 14) Ribbons should be more readable and at eye level.
- 15) Judge quilts after they are hung at the show.
- 16) Judging (specifically ribbon awards) caused a competitive air during the quilt show. Is this something we want to continue for future shows?
- 17) On the quilt registration form, there should be a list of the categories for judging and the entrant should identify which category that entry should be considered for.
- 18) Judging categories should be decided on and announced a year before the next show so that people will know well in advance what the categories are.
- 19) Each person should be permitted to enter one quilt per judged category.
- 20) day of judging, only those who signed up to work should be present. There should be NO discussion during the judging...that's not time for personal feedback on your quilts.

**MONEY ISSUES (not addressed in treasurer's report)**

- 1.) Cash should not be handled by children.
- 2.) Spending for this show was out of control. Some members are concerned about all the expenses we have lined up –the start of the November crazy quilt raffle (workshop \$250.00 plus 20 kits @ \$18.00 each – total \$610.00). Please note the board at one point decided on a budget for each workshop of no





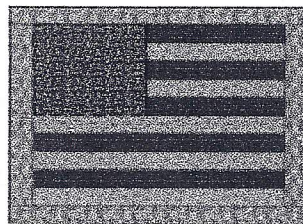
more than \$250? \$300? (PLEASE NOTE: original info on costs of Nancy Prince in May deleted as the Board has already cancelled this)

- 3.) One guild member asked, are we going to have enough money for two retreats (\$1,200 each) over the next two years?

#### GENERAL OVERALL GUILD IDEAS:

- 1.) Programs/workshops should be voted on by entire guild not just board members.
- 2.) The programs should be decided by the Board members, with suggestions by the guild members. Using guild time to have the guild decide on programs is not productive and takes away from our sewing time. Also, that's why there is Board...to develop programs on behalf of the guild.
- 3.) A selection of programs/workshops for the year should be chosen by Program Coordinators, then brought before the guild as a multiple choice – choose 2-3.
- 4.) We should not always expect those guild members with certain levels of expertise to teach our classes...they are guild members too and should not always be expected to provide instruction. We have some people who teach classes regularly...if they teach for the guild they need to be compensated.
- 5.) Cost limit on classes should be decided by guild members not board members.
- 6.) Can a guild member suggest a class that they would like and be given the opportunity to follow through?
- 7.) I think we have enough talented guild members that can teach the classes that we should be paying them to teach us instead of bringing in an outside teacher.
- 8.) One sign up sheet for all areas that need coverage so we can see where there are "holes."
- 9.) When we are discussing a guild activity, each member needs to take her membership seriously and ACTIVELY participate in that discussion. I think we are seeing some cases of people who don't speak up, but then are disgruntled or unhappy with decisions that are made. Membership is active, not passive.

We need to make sure that when we are deciding to do something (a program, having a raffle table somewhere, etc.) the vote that is taken is a gauge of whether or not the member voting is supporting that activity. In other words, don't vote yes on something if you think it might be nice but have no intention of participating or supporting it. Example: having the raffle quilt on display at Manchester this past summer. The GUILD voted overwhelmingly to do it, but when the time came, few people volunteered to help man it and some of those who did volunteer ended up having to cancel.



#### 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](mailto: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.