



Thimbles & Friends Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 27 • Issue 1

September, 2025

Board and Committee Members 2025– 2026

Chair: Doris Furness

Co-Chair: Julia Blanchard

Treasurer: Joanne Cumming

Co-Treasurer: Suzanne Kresser

Secretary: Debbie White

Charity: Wendy Moore & Susan McDonald

Facilities: Pat McCollem

Membership/Hospitality:
Phyllis Barry

Newsletter Editors: Taryen,
Wendy Foley & Beverly

Web & Social Media: Sarah Norris

Programming Coordinators: Taryen
& Sheila



Guild Website

<http://www.thimblesandfriendsquiltguild.org>

Newsletter Note: Just click on the picture of any quilt to see the Web page it came from.

Newsletter Submissions

All guild members are invited to submit articles for this newsletter. Please write your own articles and Email them to each of us no later than the 20th of the month to allow us time to process each article before distribution by the 25th. If there is no newsletter in any particular month, we will save your article for a future publication.

- Wendy F., Beverly & Taryen

Meeting Dates

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

Sep. 20th	1st MEETING – Welcome to T&F 27 th year
Oct 4th	How to use a Binding Ruller
Nov 1st	Sue McDonald class / Card making
Dec 6th	Holiday Party
Jan 3rd	
Jan 31st	Charity Workshop
Feb 12-15th	Retreat
March 7th	
April 4th	
May 2nd	Tea Party



From the Chairman

Many people say that the beginning of the new year is not January, but rather September when the lazy and relaxing days of summer end and the hustle and bustle of schools begin. It's also the time of year when many organizations, such as our own Guild, ramp up for a new year of activity. We have lots to do, and I look forward to the year ahead as we cut our fabric, turn on our machines, and create some magic.

One of the things I admire about our quilting guild is the talent that exists among us and the willingness of people to share their talents. One of the things I love even more is that the products of our talent and craftsmanship are frequently directed to others. I so often hear members commenting that a beautiful quilt has been crafted for a sick friend or a church fair or a new baby. Perhaps other guilds have equally generous members, but it's a real treat to know that I sew among some really kind (and, yes, talented!) people.

One of our first projects as we enter the Fall season is creating pillowcases for local hospitals. It occurs to me that each of us likely has her own reason why this group effort is special and could tell a story or share a memory how the gift of a pillowcase brought joy to someone. It's also possible that you could tell an amazing story or two about the fabric you are donating to the cause. For instance, the fabric Debbie White and I are using is from curtains we made for a "spa" for a camp for handicapped and intellectually challenged citizens. This fabric has already witnessed "campers" in wheelchairs getting a foot massage, a young lady with Down Syndrome getting her nails done, and a young man with cerebral palsy getting a shave. What stories can your fabric tell?



In the months ahead, as the weather cools and the days shorten, I look forward to spending time with you enjoying the light of your talent and the warmth of your kind spirits.

- Doris

From The Treasure

I will not be at the meeting on September 20 due to a family wedding. Please hang on to any requests for reimbursement or deposits until the next meeting in October where I will be available with forms and the checkbook. Please contact me directly with any questions. Thank you

- Joanne Cummings



Charity

Thimbles and Friends continue to shine in generosity! This year, we are excited to add a new project: **Ryan's Case for Smiles Pillowcase Project**. This wonderful program currently serves six hospitals, bringing comfort to children from birth through age eighteen who are battling life-changing illnesses.

A small effort to make a big smile for a sick child.

Currently, our handmade pillowcases are being shared with young patients at:

Boston Children's Hospital

Massachusetts General Hospital for Children

Boston Medical Center

Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children

Baystate Pediatric Palliative Care

Good Shepherd Pedi Pal

To help support and continue this effort, Thimbles and Friends have purchased **\$60 worth of kid-friendly fabrics** (at just 55¢ a yard!). Our Charity Coordinators are preparing pillowcase kits, which will be Free and available at every Thimbles and Friends meeting, as well as at the **Charity Workshop in January** and the **Retreat in February**.

If you have questions or need the pattern, please email or call coordinators

In addition, we will continue our ongoing support for the **South Shore Hospital Home Care Division** with quilts of all sizes, from infants to adults. The Guild will provide batting for these quilts; just email Wendy with the size you need.



And now for more good news — **Jonathan Fabric is back!** This round includes Disney, superheroes, Minions, sports, teen prints, and more. Some fabrics are on bolts and may be cut; others are precut pieces ranging from one to four yards. All fabric will be sold at just **\$2.00 per yard**. **This fabric is great for both our charity projects - or for a child of your choice - no restrictions!**

Finally, the **Upstairs Quilt Shop** will be reopening soon! Watch your email for upcoming dates and times.

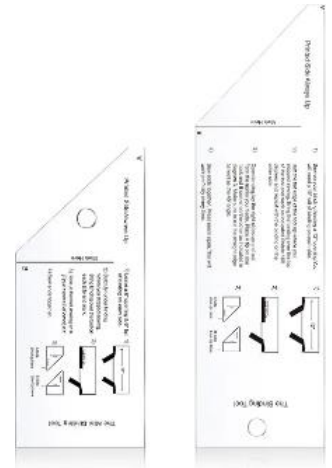
- Susan McDonald and Wendy Moore

PROGRAMING

October Program

By popular request, our next program will feature a video on how to use a binding ruler and then giving it a try ourselves! You'll need your machines for the hands-on-part-a list of what else to bring will be shared at the September meeting.

- *Taryn and Sheila*



NEQM -----A Stunning Showcase of Craft and Color



Step into a world of intricate patterns, vibrant fabrics, and centuries-old stories stitched together with care. The New England Quilt Museum celebrates quilting not just as a domestic tradition, but as a vivid art form. As you explore the galleries, you'll find yourself immersed in textures and colors that reveal the evolution of American textile art. [LINK](#)

Submitted by

- *Julia*



Sharing

I thought I would share some books that I have read. *The Book Club For Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick. She also wrote the Cobbled Court Quilt Series which I've reread a couple of times. Emilie Richards wrote a series of 5 books called *The Shenendoah Albums* which feature quilts. I just recently started a mystery series written by Barbara Eppich Struna based on Cape Cod. She actually lives on the Cape.



- *Phyllis Barry*



Here is a pix of all the pillowcases I made over the Summer.

- *Susan Warchal*

Did you know

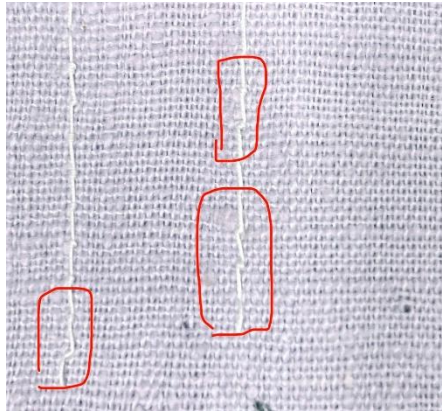
How exciting it was to see so many winning quilts by the Members of Thimbles and Friends!! Congratulations ladies, hats off to **Claudia Cummings**, **Barbara White**, **Linda Mondeau** and **Sue-Ellen Hewitt** won ribbons *Barbara won four!!*

Thanks, Sue Ellen for sharing this news!!



Why does my straight stitch look like a lightning bolt?

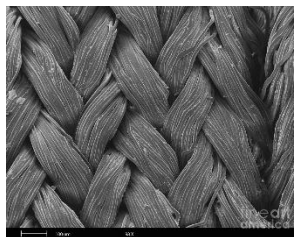
A common complaint I hear from sewists is that their straight-stitch sometimes appears ever so slightly zig-zaggy, like a miniature lightning bolt (as seen in the photograph below).



Why does this happen? The chief cause is the **weave of the fabric**.

The majority of fabric we sew on is woven together. Technically, a woven fabric is any fabric made by interlacing two or more threads at right angles to one another. Woven fabrics can be made of natural fibers, synthetic fibers, or a mixture of both, like cotton and polyester.

When the needle penetrates the fabric, it usually **does not pierce the weave** and break the woven fibers, but instead **slides in-between the woven fibers**. Depending on how the fabric is oriented, there is chance the needle slides between the right side of weave on one stitch and then the left side of the weave on the next stitch. If this happens, then upon closer inspection, your straight stitch may appear like a series of small lightning bolts.



woven fabric underneath microscope

Now, it's important to note that the visual of the lightning bolts **does not affect the integrity of the stitch**. As long as the knot is sitting in between the fabric correctly and there is no thread looping, then the stitch is perfectly fine functionally. With that said, if you want to get rid of the lightning bolt appearance, there are two simple solutions that I recommend.

One way to solve the problem is to simply **match the thread color with the fabric color**. If you're sewing black fabric, use black thread. If you're sewing white fabric, use white thread. And so on. The

lightening bolt issue will still occur, but it will not be visible to the eye because the colors match. The color contrast between thread and fabric is why the lightening bolts are noticeable in the initial picture: the white thread stands out against the purple fabric and the slight imperfections are far more noticeable. Any time you sew dark thread on light fabric or vice versa, that is when the lightening bolts appear most prominent. Match the thread color with fabric color, or use a neutral colored beige thread, and you won't be able to see the the needle picking different sides of the weave.

A second solution is to use [Microtex Sharp](#) needles from Schmetz. The point of these needles are designed to be sharper than other needles and capable of piercing the weave of a fabric in order to better achieve a super straight looking straight stitch. I will not guarantee that it pierces the weave every time, but it tends to do a better job than other needle types.

Submitted by Wendy Moore

