



Thimbles & Friends Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 14 • Issue 6 January 2015



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In Memory

It is truly sad that our January issue begins with a tribute to one of our dear members, Pat Loftus, who passed away January 15.

Pat's presence among us touched everyone. She gave of herself with warmth and ease and shared her smile with all. Her quick wit, funny stories and the sparkle in her eyes lifted all of us; you couldn't help but feel happy when she was around.

Pat usually sat at a table near Julia and me at the retreat and she added so much to our weekend. She spoke often of her home in Maine and used to tell me that her late husband was the best in the world. Many will remember how she patiently taught us to make pillowcases, always with encouragement and always with that warm smile. Pat enjoyed quilting trips and went to Pennsylvania, Paducah and Houston with her T&F friends, who found her a delightful and colorful traveling companion.

Our hearts are heavy and her loss leaves a large void in each of us personally and our group as a whole; she will be missed by everyone. We will remember her always and she will always be a part of Thimbles and Friends. Rest in peace, Pat.

- Jill



From the Chair

Jill's tribute includes her thoughts and the thoughts of many of you who sent emails upon hearing of Pat's death. Thank you all. A donation is being made to the New England Quilt Museum from the Guild in Pat's memory. I feel honored that the wall hanging I bought in the Silent Auction at the last show was made by Pat. I will think of her whenever I look at it.

- Rose

Board Members 2014-2015

Chair: Rose Perry

Co-Chair: Jeanne Aurelio

Treasurer: Cathy Hodges

Co-Treasurer: Joanne Donovan

Secretary: Chris Thierfelder

Charity:

Joyce Hochstrasser/Jo Fruzzetti

Facilities: Pat McCollem/Pat O'Leary

Membership/Hospitality:

Louise Wilson

Newsletter Editors:

Julia Blanchard/Jill Lillie

Programming: Member Volunteers

January Meeting

Donna Babchuk is providing a speaker for the January 31st meeting. Luella Mann will display and talk about her love of aprons. Luella will also give us a lesson on how to make an apron. If you are taking part in this workshop (and have previously signed up for it), bring the following supplies:

- 1 yard of fabric - preferably cotton and at least 42" wide (directional fabric is OK)
- Matching thread
- scissors
- pins
- measuring tape / ruler
- sewing machine

(Luella will provide the interfacing)

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

Have Something to Say?

Send newsletter submissions to Julia at Julia.Blanchard@comcast.net and Jill at scruffsmom@comcast.net

Guild Website:

<http://www.thimblesandfriends.org/>



Meeting Dates

Jan. 31	Luella Mann Love of Aprons Workshop – Donna Babchuk
Feb. 13-15	Retreat in Plymouth!! – Jo Abbott, Gina Stone, Shirley MacLeod, and Nancy Moynihan
March 7	Faux Piped Binding workshop – Chris Thierfelder
April 4	Adele Scott Workshop – Tracy Phillips
May 2	End of the year party – Joanne Donovan

Charity Quilt Notes

We are unable to transport the large roll of batting or bring additional cut batting with us to the retreat due to limited vehicle cargo space so, if anyone wants batting to use at the retreat for their charity quilt, we would like to cut it and bring it to the next guild meeting in January.

If you cannot make it to the next guild meeting, we will make arrangements to have you pick-up or we can drop it off to you. Just let us know what size you need.

Thank you!

-Joyce



Joanne at the 2014 retreat.

Out and About

Need a road trip? Mark your calendars for upcoming shows, events and visits to new quilt shops.

- Still going on during the month of January at Homestead Quilting and Fabrics in Lakeville, for every \$10 you spend you will get \$1 Bonus Buck to spend in the month of February!
- February 19-21, 2015: Fabric Extravaganza sale at the Holiday Inn in Nashua NH. 10-6 Thursday and Friday and 10-3 Saturday

Participating shops include Vintage and Vogue, The Christmas Shoppe, Nashua Sew and Vac, Fabritique, Great Pond, Quiltopia, The Purple Mouse, and Mainely Sewing.

[Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild](#) show March 21 & 22 at Blue Hills Regional Tech in Canton.

Featured Quilter of the Month – Joanne Fruzzetti

Our featured quilter for January is Joanne Fruzzetti from Weymouth.

After graduating from Cony High School in 1953 in her hometown of Augusta, Maine, Joanne moved to Massachusetts and lived with her grandmother until she met her husband on a blind date. They were married the following September and have been together for 60 years.

Joanne is no stranger to sewing, having made her own clothes since she was in high school. She learned her seamstress and alteration skills from her husband's aunt Edith; this turned into a little alteration business. Her daughters always had new dresses to start the new school year and for Christmas and Easter; they don't remember ever buying a dress off the rack. (And they were not allowed to wear jeans until they were out of school!) Joanne also knitted them new sweaters for Christmas and birthdays and would gift wrap them with the knitting needles still in them if they weren't finished in time. She would store knitted hats, scarves and mittens in the bottom drawer in the kitchen where the girls, who loved the different textures, played with them all year. Joanne made all of their Barbie doll clothes, which were the envy of the neighborhood; the girls had the best dressed Barbies in town. She made Barbie and American Doll clothes for extra money and still makes baby and fleece jackets for profit. She taught the girls to sew when they were young, way before they took sewing in home economics class. She taught Sheryl to sew to help her get a sewing badge in Girl Scouts. Joanne obviously fostered the girls' passion for the fiber arts.

She was heavily involved in sewing costumes for the annual Demolay/Rainbow Minstrel Shows for the several years that the girls participated in Rainbow, hauling her featherweight to rehearsals so she could help out every week. As a professional seamstress, she made custom clothing and made majorette uniforms for a local high school. When the girls got older, Joanne made their Rainbow, wedding and bridesmaid gowns; she even made her son's suit for Sheryl's wedding.

Joanne was once heard to say "who would want to cut up little pieces of fabric and then sew them back together to make a quilt?", but after watching her three daughters learn to quilt and by reading quilting magazines, she added quilting to her many skills; she has been quilting for 15 years and favors machine quilting and machine applique. She does not have a particular fabric or designer category, but uses whatever catches her eye.

Our "featherweight queen" has 7 or 8 featherweights and 4 Janomes (although rumor has it there may be more). Her favorite featherweight is the freearm purchased by her husband with Joyce's help. She uses a Janome straight stitch machine more than any of the others. Her pet peeve is not cleaning the lint from a sewing machine!

Joanne also knits and crochets every evening and likes to make afghans and baby items. She is delighted to be able to spend time with her three daughters and all of the friends she has made in the guild. Her favorite time is when they are at the retreat.

We can't wait to see you there, Joanne!



FreeCycle Table

The Freecycle table seems to be a big hit and a success now that it is well underway. I will set up the table again at the next meeting and every meeting after that as well. Most everything that is placed on the table is picked up by another member to use in that same day. Very little is left behind. If you put something on the table, you do not have to take it back home with you if no one wants it. I will simply put it in the box and bring it to the next meeting.

There will also be a larger Freecycle table set up at the February Retreat. Typically members find quite a bit of stuff they do not desire to use anymore when they are organizing and packing their sewing supplies for our retreat. Use this opportunity to pass on what you have to other members and in doing so reduce consumer consumption, recycle, and take care of Mother Earth.

-Gina



Advice from a 1949 Singer Sewing Manual



Advice from a Singer Sewing Manual from 1949:

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. . . never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference predominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or

beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. . . When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag full of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on . . . [If] you are constantly fearful that a visitor will drop in or your husband will come home and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing as you should. .

From one of your many manuals, Joanne?

Quilt Show Challenge

It's not too early to think about your 2015 show challenge entry, "The Wonder of Nature". Here are the guidelines:

- Your creation can be traditional or contemporary and should reflect our theme of "The Wonder of Nature."
- This is an optional activity and is not a requirement for guild membership.
- It should be a small quilt or wall hanging, not a tote bag, pocket book, vest or jacket, etc.
- It should measure no larger than 24" x 24."
- You are free to use whatever construction or quilting methods work best for your creation (i.e., machine piece, hand piece, paper piece, machine appliqué, hand appliqué, machine or hand quilt, etc.). We encourage you to **challenge yourself** and be creative.
- Embellishments are optional.
- Hanging sleeve is optional.
- Put a label with your name on the back of your quilt. If you want, give credit to the source that inspired you.
- Challenge quilts will have the same due date as the other show quilts. More information will be provided as we get closer to the show.

- Chris and Julia



Come One Come All to the Mardi Gras Ball

This year's retreat will be fun and productive with time for quilting and being with our quilting sisters. Since the theme is Mardi Gras, the retreat committee will be awarding prizes for anyone wearing the most Mardi Gras colors: Green, Gold and Purple. Prizes for the best masks/costumes/ hats will also be awarded, but only if you choose to participate. Nothing is mandatory. For those who want to get creative, please do so. We encourage it!

We will be playing three rounds of the LRC game (left, right, center dice game). Participants are welcome to bring any type of fat quarter they wish, but of a good quality. You must have a fat quarter for each game you want to play.

We will have a chocolate swap. The chocolate item should be up to a \$5.00 maximum purchase. Please put the chocolate in a brown paper lunch bag labeled "CHOCOLATE". There will also be two separate fat quarter swaps. One Valentine novelty fat quarter swap and one batik fat quarter swap. Please put each fat quarter in a separate brown paper lunch bag labeled "VALENTINE" and "BATIK", respectively.

The downstairs sewing room will be available Friday morning after 8 AM through Sunday until 6 PM. Our vendor Heart in Hands will be set up in the sewing room on Saturday after lunch.

Come for the day, night or all three days, whatever your schedule allows. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Thank you from the Retreat Committee: Josephine, Gina, Nancy and Shirley.