



Thimbles & Friends Quilt Guild Newsletter

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February Meeting

As we anticipate the biggest guild event of the year, Pat D. and Joanne D. will help us organize and pack for our retreat. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a first-timer, they will walk us through the steps to get ready and make sure we bring everything we'll need to get the most out of our weekend. So come with questions and "sew like a pro."

Greetings from Bridgewater

Pretty soon we'll be on our retreat happily sewing away on top of two chairs (unless we bring a cushion), eating chocolate, and not sleeping well. Can't wait! I have way too many projects to bring, but whatever gets done will be fine. I always make a lot of progress, learn a lot, and have a LOT of fun. If you are new, please don't miss this; it is the best way to really become part of the wonderful group of ladies known as "Thimbles & Friends." ☺

- *Julia*

PS: there is a funny typo in this issue. See if you can find it!

From the Chair

Hello sister quilters!

Just a little while until our retreat! I hope you are busy choosing what to work on, cutting fabric, and organizing yourselves to get the most from our weekend.

I've been thinking about what the word "retreat" actually means: to withdraw or to pull back. We may be doing this in relation to our daily lives—withdrawing from usual chores and pulling back from everyday concerns—but in another sense, what we do is not a "retreat" at all. Quilting-wise, we may actually be "advancing" our skills, or "progressing" on our future plans. Even those of us who don't consciously try to upgrade our skills end up getting better just through the practice we get from our three days of quilting!

Let me encourage you to try a new technique or tool, draft your own pattern, use fabric or colors you never have before, or do something else to stretch your quilting repertoire. We have three days (more if we get snowed in like last year!) to "advance" at our "retreat"!

Happy quilting,

- Jeanne

Retreat News

Hello Ladies!

Hotel1620 (formerly the Radisson) will honor the \$91 plus tax per night rate for anyone that wants to check in on Thursday night. If you have already made your reservations and they quoted you the higher rate (\$149), Jenna Howland said they will adjust your reservations.

- Joanne Donovan

Charity Quilt Help

Need help making a charity quilt and don't know where to start? We received some coordinated fabric via the free cycle table a few months ago and it was suggested we make charity quilt kits with the fabric. Much of this fabric was pre-cut into squares so we have matched like fabrics to make quilt top starter kits. A border can be added if you wish. You supply the back and binding.

The guild will supply the batting. If you need charity quilt batting and plan to work on your charity quilt during the retreat, please let us know before the February meeting. Otherwise, we can supply batting at any time. Thanks for sharing your time and talent making charity quilts for South Shore Hospital Homecare and Hospice. They appreciate it!

- Joyce Hochstrasser and
Joanne Fruzzetti

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



Meeting Dates

Here are the meeting and event dates for our upcoming year. Meeting times are 10:15 AM – 2 PM.

Feb. 6	Prep for Retreat – Joanne Donovan and Pat Delaney
Feb. 12-14	Retreat in Plymouth!! – Joyce H, Janice O’Gara, Sue-Ellen Hewitt
March 5	TBA
April 2	Shop Hop – Tracey Phillips and Janice O’Gara
May 7	End of the year party – TBA



Poetry Corner

Coping with UFOS

Many are the quilts I have begun,
Far fewer those I've finished.
The UFO collection just keeps
growing –
It needs to be diminished!
I could send them to be quilted by
machine
But that would take money I lack.
I could let someone else quilt them
for me,
But would I really get them back?
Not starting quilts would, of course,
Be a sure UFO preventive,
But not having the will power that
requires,
I must rely on some deadline
incentive.

- [Jacquie Scuitto aka The Muse](#)

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/>

Retreat Fun

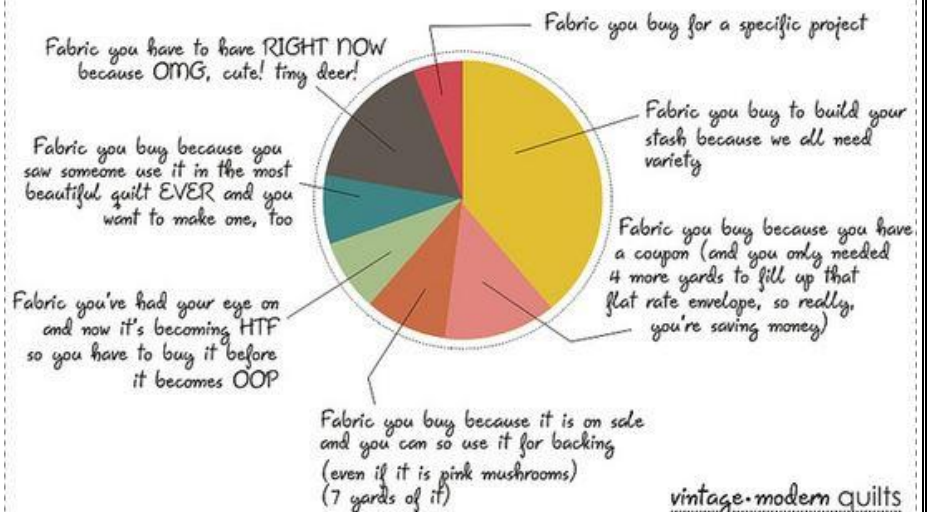
Are you ready for the February 2016 retreat? The Retreat Fun Committee is anxiously looking forward to the retreat this year with the theme of "Keep it Simple/Back to Basics" sewing and socializing weekend! We are having fat quarter swaps throughout the weekend using good quality quilting fabric. If you would like to participate, bring these 3 fat quarters in individual brown lunch bags: 1) Bali/Batik 2) Black/White 3) Red and mark on the outside of the bag which swap is inside.

The LCR game is a perennial favorite at our retreat and lots of laughs. Anyone can play but you will need a fat quarter, per game, to play (no fat quarter theme, your choice). The winner is rewarded with all the fat quarters played that game!

Michelle from [Homestead Quilting and Fabrics](#) will be arriving Saturday around noontime and setting up shop while we have our lunch. If there is anything special that you would like please let one of us know and we'll forward the request to her. The retreat is a wonderful place for all of us to get to know each other a little better and share ideas with our quilting friends. See you there!

- Joyce, Janice & Sue-Ellen

Quilting Economics





Update on the Shop Hop

At the January meeting the guild unanimously voted to participate in the April 2016 Schoolhouse Shop Hop. Our April 2, 2016 meeting will be a bus trip to the 5 quilt shops involved. The generating costs for this trip are estimated at \$48.00 per participant, including the cost of renting a bus at \$1000.00 and paying the \$8.00 entry fee for each participant. Of note, Tracey does not have a confirmed cost for the bus yet that will include a discount. The guild voted for the \$48.00 cost to be divided with T & F participating members paying \$24.00 dollars and the guild paying the remaining cost of \$24.00. The \$8.00 registration fee has been paid, assuring us tote bags that will be picked up at our first quilt shop stop.

Many T&F members paid the \$24.00 fee at the January meeting. For members who are interested in attending and have not paid, Cathy Hodges is collecting this fee.

The guild voted to open any remaining bus seats to non-Thimble and Friend members at a cost of \$48.00. We anticipate there may only be 6 open seats based on the sign-up list from the January meeting.

The shops involved are the following:

- The Bunkhouse Quilt shop in Lydenborough, N.H which is under new management
- Cobblestone Quilts in Townsend, MA
- Quilted Threads in Henniker, N.H.
- The Quilted Crow in Boxborough, MA
- Red Barn Sewing and Yarn Center

Please visit www.schoolhouseshophop.com for more information.