



Thimbles & Friends Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 17 • Issue 4

December 2017

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Greetings from Bridgewater

Hello my friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed the party earlier this month, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity to children in need this holiday season. The gifts you gave to the Toys for Tots program were so far above my expectations—it makes my heart full. Thank you, one and all!

- Julia



From the Chair

Recently I was reminded of what makes this guild special. It is the shared team approach with members bringing forth ideas and changes. One great example is the recent holiday party, both a fun meeting and meaningful one with lots of donated toys for tots. What a great idea from the holiday party team! Everyone, please keep the ideas coming forth.

Our next two meetings are classes with talented quilters, Pat Delaney and Marge Tucker. Due to this, there will be abbreviated business meetings to maximize the class time. Julia will discuss the retreat, Joyce, the UFO project, and Janice, the raffle, with our Show and Tell as the only other agenda item. Anyone else who wants to be added and needs time, please let me know. The January 27th guild meeting will have a similar format.

It is that time again to begin our next quilt show planning. Please consider leading our next quilt show. Linda Robbins has volunteered to be co-chair again, but we need a chair. As Rose shared at the last

Guild Website:

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

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



Freecycle News

Hello to everyone! The Freecycle Table will be open for business at both meetings in January. Start the New Year off right by getting rid of the old to make room for the new. New year, new you, new fabric! Thank you to everyone who has made this endeavor quite a success.

- Gina



guild meeting, many of the quilt show challenges with a new venue have been ironed out. The show is booked for October 19th and 20th 2019, again at the Abington Senior Center.

- Tracey

Meeting Dates

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

Jan. 6	Machine Applique – Pat Delaney (extended time if needed)
Jan. 27	Modern Class – Marge Tucker (extended time until 2:30)
Feb. 8-11	Retreat at Hotel 1620 at Plymouth Harbor
March 3	Scraps and Accuquilt – Joyce, Nancy, Erin
April 7	Open Sew – Rose (extended time until 4:30 pm if desired)
May 5	Annual Tea Party – Sue Wharchal

Thank you to all our volunteers!!!

Singer Sewing Manual ~ circa 1949

Advice for how to sew properly...

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 dominates.
Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade.

When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first
so that 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 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 might drop in or
that your husband will come home, and you will not look
neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.

Mirthfully submitted by Sheryl

Newsletter Submissions

All guild members are invited to submit articles. They can be useful and entertaining, are newsworthy, and pertain to quilting in general, and Thimbles and Friends in particular. We request that you write your own articles and e-mail them to both of us no later than the 20th of each month to allow us time to review, edit if necessary, and format each article before distribution on the 25th.

- Jill and Julia



UFO Challenge

Hi Ladies: Are you feeling a sense of accomplishment tackling your UFOs? For those who are participating in the UFO Challenge for this guild year, you would have submitted a UFO project list to me at the September or October meeting. You would have assigned each project a number. Every meeting we are pulling a random project number which will be due by the next meeting. Project #3 was drawn at the December meeting so that project will be due at the January 27 meeting. Due to the holidays and the fact that there are two meetings in January, we will not pull a number at the meeting on January 6th. For each numbered project completed by the due date, I will complete a raffle ticket with your name on it. At the end of the year, we will pull a ticket and the winner will receive a prize. Happy quilting!

- Joyce

Heart Flower Applique Class

It's always good to have new techniques at hand. Turned edge, machine applique is elegant and very finished. No fusible or raw edges are used, and the results are very like hand appliqué. We will learn how to handle all the appliqué challenges such as inner corners and sharp points all done by machine. Once mastered, virtually all appliqué designs can be done with heirloom quality by machine. See picture at left.

Supply List

Machine with blanket stitch, manual

Open toe foot

New, number 70 Microtex needle

Pencil, paper, sharpie,

Purple air release pen or blue water release pen (if washing)

Freezer paper

Optional: Alex Andersons's Print and Piece Fuse Light (I will have some)

Water spritz bottle or water brush

Glue stick water soluble, non-permanent

Paper scissors and sharp tip fabric scissors

Basic sewing supplies

Background fabric, light color, 11" x 16"

Small pieces of assorted colors (at least four)

Lightweight bobbin thread to match background (50 or 60 weight)

YLI invisible thread only (I will have some)

- Pat D.





Letter to Gram

Dear Gram,

I have been thinking of you a lot lately for many reasons. I just finished quilting that Flower Basket quilt top you gave to my mother many years ago. Do you remember those appliquéd Water Lily blocks you made? I assembled those and recently finished quilting that also.

While I was preparing those quilts our guild had our every other year quilt show. One of my fellow quilters made a quilt honoring her nana. Her memories of her nana reflected many of my own memories of time shared with you. Blueberry picking, learning hand work and textiles! I still can remember you showing my mother your latest quilt block or idea. She had NO interest, but I did! I doubt if you or mom noticed me avidly watching from the background.

You were aware that I was a quilter. Once while I was visiting, I was working on a hand pieced runner. You looked at me and said, "Honey, go run that up on the machine!" You thought I lost my mind when I told you that I wanted to hand sew it.

Of course, you would never sew something by hand unless it was necessary. You may have had a ruler or a yardstick. The Water Lily blocks look like they were cut out by a pair of scissors both too dull and too small for the job. Your sewing machine was a Singer that was a treadle and was electrified. Despite having minimal tools at your disposal, your quilts are beautiful. How you would have loved quilting today with our array of tools and conveniences to streamline our work.

I felt very close to you as I worked on the Water Lily blocks. So much of how you work resembles my own. As I was taking out the basting I saw that you started in the same place on every block. You were so methodical. Yet the blocks ranged in size from 8.5 to 9.5 inches. Not very many people are both so precise in some things and so casual in others.

The pattern was cut from a piece of notebook paper. On the reverse is a fragment of a list of fabrics and catalog numbers. I smile because I have my very own mail-order wish lists next to me.

Thank you for your influence over the years of your life and the years since then. I am sure you are the reason that I became a quilter. It is both my passion and my therapy. But most of all, thank you for leaving behind some beautiful UFOs to finish. I now have two beautiful quilts that I can say are from my Gram.

Love,

Linda

Retreat News

I know everyone is looking forward to our annual quilt retreat at the Hotel 1620 in Plymouth. The dates are February 9 – 11, but there are a limited number of rooms for the 8th as well so if you want to come early, book your room as soon as you can. Here's what you'll need to know:

- Rooms must be booked by Jan. 8 to receive the Thimbles and Friends discount. Call soon!
- You may book your rooms online; our promotion code is Thimbles2018 (no space) so you can access the room rate of \$112 per night (that's for Thursday night also). Their website is: www.hotel1620.com.
- The hotel: Hotel 1620, 180 Water St, Plymouth, MA 02361. To call rather than book online the reservation number is 855-516-1090. The main number is 508-747-4900
- The Sewing room on Thursday will be available from noon to 11 PM. Friday and Saturday the room will be available from 7 AM to 11:30 PM and on Sunday from 7 AM to 6 PM.
- Unfortunately, the pool will be closed for repairs during our stay.
- The theme for this year's retreat will be Game Shows! No costumes, decorations, or skits—just a few games spread throughout the weekend, and with some, you won't even have to stop sewing.
- The Guild will be kicking in over half of the cost of the sewing room and meals. Member's fee for the retreat this year will be \$35. Please submit this amount to our treasurer, Joanne Donovan, if you will be attending the retreat.
- Contact forms will be available for everyone to place under their machine in the case of a medical emergency.
- Our vendor, Michelle Medeiros of Homestead Quilting will come on Saturday after lunch. Please allow Michelle to complete her setup before shopping.
- We are going to continue the tradition of the Chocolate Swap. Place some yummy chocolate in a plain paper bag and staple shut. Don't forget to write "Chocolate" on it so you don't get it confused with the fabric!
- Fat Quarter Swap – The theme of the fat quarter swap will be Fun and Games. This could include novelty fabrics such as dice, cards, or anything fun! A pattern will be provided for something to make out of it since this is not a fabric you can easily slip into your quilt project (LOL). Again, put it in a labeled paper bag.
- Left-Center-Right - Another retreat favorite, the theme for this one will be Jewel-toned Batiks. Winner takes all!
- We're going to do a buffet this year for Saturday's luncheon, so meal selections will not be needed. A variety of salads and sandwich fixings will be available. Sunday's brunch buffet will stay the same.
- If you are the last person to leave the sewing room, please ask the front desk to lock up for the night.
- Don't forget to pack all your sewing equipment and projects, and of course the most important thing, underwear!

The retreat is a great time of fellowship, fun, and learning from each other. We can't wait to see what everyone will be working on!

- 2018 Retreat committee: Julia, Tracey, Erin, and Libby

Marge Tucker Class – Eel Grass and Eddies (Improvitational Curved Piecing)

Marge Tucker will join us on January 27 for an all-day workshop on improvisational quilting. Please plan on this day for inspiration, experimentation, and learning.



Blocks



Quilt

Supply list

Fabric:

For the sample quilt size (70 ½" x 80 ½"):

- 3 ½ yards background
- 3 ½ yards "print" (I used green and blue batiks)
 - OR 1 ¾ yard of TWO "prints"
 - OR 1/3 yard of TEN different "prints"

**If you are more interested in learning just the technique, please bring pieces of fabric that are cut 12" by 22" in at least two different colors, maybe 14 to 20 pieces.

Other Supplies:

- Sewing Machine and accessories (power cord, foot pedal)
- ¼" piecing foot for your machine
- Rotary cutter with a new blade
- Cutting mat (18"x 24")
- A clear acrylic ruler (6" x 24")
- Basic sewing kit (scissors, seam ripper, straight pins)
- Thread in a neutral cotton

Holiday Party Fun



