

Laurel Wreath

Volume 31 • Issue 1 Newsletter of the Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild September-October 2013

Welcome to the 2013 – 2014 Quilting year with RNQG!

I have the happy task of being the guild president for this year! I thought I would start the year by telling you a bit about how I feel about the guild and a bit about me so that you all know who you are dealing with (the board knows and honestly some are scared!)

I love the guild. I appreciate that there is such a variety of people out there juggling family and professions and all that life entails and that that same group of people will stop everything to find just the **right** color blue fabric! And those busy people make a point to carve out an evening, the third Wednesday of the month, to enjoy like-minded people.

I love that we, RNQG, have presentations on quilt subjects from antique to art and on how to make a label or what to do with the out of control stash! I often feel like the presenter is there just for me! Sometimes they are so talented I don't really "like" them all that much, but I love them!

We are on mass a people that like to solve puzzles and make beauty out of chaos and make chaos again - all in fabric form! RNQG has an incredibly talented group of, colorist, fabric artist, hand quilters, quilt authorities, machine quilters, piecers, dyers, beaders, long-armers, shopkeepers, professionals and amateurs. We are creative. And our creativity grows when we meet and share! I really love that.

And now for little about me, I will be about 2 weeks into my new role as an empty nester as you read this. As prepared and happy as my daughter and I were for departure day I am equally unprepared to live alone for the first time since 1991! I am an office/accounting manager by day and always a daughter (my mom is in the guild!), a mother, a neighbor, a dog lover and cat owner (it is mutual believe me), a wannabe gardener, a project starter!! I am horrible at remembering names and tons of other stuff too! I love road trips and always take too many vacation days! I love to be outside and near water or woods but not the beach or mosquitos! I, like most of you, juggle to make this crazy busy life hold more each day. I don't like to do it but I have found that asking for help always leads to receiving some help (not always in the way I had planned but help none the less). So here is my plea to you, my creative talented friends, I will need your help to pull off a successful, enjoyable and informative year. The guild will need your help as volunteers, organizers, donators, cheerleaders, spectators and participants! You are what makes the guild and I love RNQG!

Peace ~ Vicki

Editor's Note:

Please send submissions for the next newsletter to Lhancock42@aol.com no later than October 20, 2013.

MEETING INFORMATION

All RNQG meetings are held at 7:30 pm at the Italian-American Club, 109 Stone Street, Walpole, MA. Getting to know each other can be difficult. Please remember to wear your nametag to meetings. If you do, you'll receive a raffle ticket for a fun prize!

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held 6:30 – 7:55 at the Walpole Public Library, Pinnacle Room, 143 School Street, Walpole. All members are invited to attend. All board members are encouraged attend.

September 4, 2013
November 6, 2013

WEBSITE

AnneMarie Freitas continues to work her magic to make the RNQG website both full of information and very user friendly. If you have anything you'd like her to post, you can reach her at webmaster@rnqq.org. If you need to check the date of a meeting or what events are coming up, please remember to visit the website at www.rnqq.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013

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CONNECTING THREADS

This year the RNQG contact person for Connecting Threads is Joanne Beaupre. If you know of someone who could use a greeting card on behalf of the guild, please contact Joanne at Jcb124@aol.com or by calling her at 781-326-4138.



RNQG PROGRAMS 2013-2014

Guild meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Italian-American Club, 109 Stone Street, Walpole, MA. Unless stated otherwise, all workshops are held at All About Quilts, 958 Main Street, Walpole, MA and run from 9:30AM to 4 PM.

Workshop fees: \$60 for RNQG members, \$65 for non-RNQG members. Additional costs (if applicable) are listed in program description. Any non-RNQG member registered for a workshop may attend the guild meeting preceding the workshop free of charge.

Workshop fees are due at the time of registration. Until payment is received, you are not considered registered. If you register for a workshop and find you are unable to attend, there will be no refund from RNQG. You may find a replacement for your spot and have that individual pay you directly.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 GUILD MEETING

Joan Shay

Lecture: "We've Bonded"



Quilt designer, author and teacher recently relocated from Cape Cod, MA to Summerfield, FL, Joan Shay is the inventor of an appliqué technique dubbed "Applibond"©. She is famous for her quilts which contain realistic 3-D flowers, birds and fish. These are created from motifs cut from layers of fabric that has been bonded together. The bonded motifs are tacked to a background fabric and their edges remain unattached, creating a 3-D effect. It is easy and fun!

During this one-hour lecture and trunk show you will learn the steps for creating an Applibond quilt and view nearly 60 Applibond quilts ("*in person!*")

SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 WORKSHOP

Joan Shay

Workshop: Petal Play "Cardinal"

This Appli-bond cardinal looks so real you can almost hear his chirping! In class you will construct the bird, holly leaves and berries from the bonded fabric. A demonstration is given for the oval setting. You may choose to bring your own supplies or pre-order a kit to purchase in class.

PLEASE NOTE: **Special price! \$45** Class is limited to 16 participants



OCTOBER 16, 2013 GUILD MEETING

Kate Carney

Lecture: "1843: Mrs. Lois Larcom"



Actor, playwright, and teacher, Kate Carney has been captivating listeners from Galway to Chicago with her historical theater pieces. She sweeps you back in time to meet some remarkable women who did extraordinary things. In costume and character, she shares first-person adventure stories of women who draw you into their lives as if you were there with them. You meet historical women who question authority, get things done, overcome adversity, and all with a sense of humor. What a way to learn more about the past – enter into the period!

This evening, Kate steps back in time around the end of the industrial revolution in nearby Lowell, MA. As Lois Larcom, a boarding house keeper, you will learn about New England's textile manufacturing past and hear stories about the Lowell Mill Girls. The caring housemother describes life in the mills and the boarding houses, and how the "girls" went a long way in reforming the working conditions for women all over New England. In fact, their actions paved the way for rights and dignity for female workers all over the U.S.!



NOVEMBER 20, 2013 GUILD MEETING**Sharon Mayers****Lecture: "Piecing with Poppers"**

You are likely tempted to ask, "What is a popper?" Simply stated, poppers are narrow strip of fabric added around each patch of a quilt block. The narrow separation causes each individual fabric to stand out, or "POP". The technique results in colors and designs that really catch the eye, as you can clearly see by comparing the photos below!



Un-popped



Popped

"Poppers" were developed in 2011 by Sharon Mayers, a professional quilter from Coventry, Rhode Island. Since that time, she has gone on to develop a line of quilt patterns that truly exhibit her creativity and innovation, as well as her passion for the craft. Sharon's uplifting and informative lecture describes her life's journey leading to the development of the "Piecing with Poppers" line of patterns. The slide-and-trunk show features a variety of quilts made with "Poppers" and will convince even the most timid that anyone with basic quilting experience can master the technique and add drama to their quilts.

The best thing about "Poppers"? They can be used in a variety of projects, ranging from placemats to king-sized quilts!

NOVEMBER 23, 2013 SATURDAY WORKSHOP**Sharon Mayers****Workshop: "Popper Tablerunner"**

Sharon's unique sense of humor make this hands-on workshop a fun and memorable day. Learn to "Piece with Poppers" by making a table runner consisting of squares and rectangles, outlined with "Poppers". After completing the class, quilters will have the knowledge and confidence to make any of the "Piecing with Poppers" patterns.

JANUARY 15, 2014 GUILD MEETING
RNQG Members' Round Table
Topic: Our Favorite Quilting Things

Learn techniques and tips from fellow Rhododendron members during this minidemonstration night. Each speaker has up to 10 minutes to cover the topic of their choice.

Have something you'd like to share? Email the guild program chair (programs@rnqg.org) to volunteer!

FEBRUARY 19, 2014 GUILD MEETING
Kathleen Murphy
Lecture: "It's a Small World! The World of Inchies"



Question: "What is an inchie?"

Answer: A quilt (all 3 layers: top, batting and backing) that measures 1" on each side.

"Invented" by Nadine Ruggles in 2009, inchies are fast and fun to make. When embellished with beads, crystals, fibers, and found objects, each is a miniature work of art. Inchies are perfect for trading, collecting, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, and art quilts big or small...and likely numerous applications waiting to be discovered! During the evening's presentation, Kathleen Murphy will introduce our guild members and guests to the wonderful world of inchies, including the steps involved in their construction. Her trunk show contains works created by the members of a local guild after organized inchie swaps.

Kathleen is an artist at heart. She received formal training in many aspects of art: oil/acrylic paint, clay, ink, pencil, screenprinting, graphic design -- but not fiber. She began using fiber as her medium in 1993 after joining a quilt guild. She fell in love with the possibilities and limitations. She ignores the strict guidelines imposed by the quilting world and is comfortable using any artistic means to create her work.



MARCH 1, 2014 SATURDAY WORKSHOP

**Janet Elia
“Inchie Quilts”**



During this Saturday workshop, Janet will show you how to have fun with beads, embroidery, and found objects while you make the tiniest quilts yet! You'll learn the tools, tips and techniques for quilting, cutting, edging and embellishing these diminutive works of art, as well as various methods for attaching them to a quilt.

An active member of RNQG, wife, and mother of two who is also school nurse at Taunton High School, Janet began sewing when she was still in grade school. She took her first quilting class in 1984 but wasn't stung by the quilting "bug" until 2001. During years spent teaching at a local quilt shop, the embellished bags she created earned her the nickname, "The Bag Lady." She now spends time sharing her expertise with local guilds, lecturing and teaching her favorite topics: sashiko, appliqué and Hawaiian quilting (and bag making!)



**MARCH 19, 2014 GUILD MEETING
RNQG Auction**

Get your bidding paddles ready! The RNQG biennial blast of bidding and bargain-buying returns to the Italian-American Club in 2014! Both silent and live auction segments are planned for the evening. Be sure to bring your checkbook and your friends or anyone who loves a great deal to this gala event! Remember, guest fees are waived on auction night.

Join our Auctioneer for an evening of fun, fundraising, and fantastic finds! One quilter's stash becomes another quilter's treasure!



**APRIL 16, 2014 GUILD MEETING
Guest Speaker TBD**

Currently under negotiation . . . check periodically to learn what the evening will hold!



MAY 21, 2014 GUILD MEETING**Vivian Lee Sayre****Lecture: "Quilt Appraisal"**

Have you ever wondered how a quilt appraisal is done? What makes one quilt "valuable" when a similar quilt has only "sentimental value"? How does a quilt appraiser determine the age of a quilt? What are the reasons for having a quilt appraised? Why are there three types of appraisals, and which is the right one to request for my quilt? These questions and more will likely be answered during the course of this evening's lecture.

Vivien is an appraiser certified by the American Quilter's Society, and a member of the Board of Directors of the New England Quilt Museum. She also serves on the Acquisition Committee of NEQM and is a member of the Steering Committee of The Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project (MassQuilts). Her knowledge of quilts, both antique and contemporary, is extensive. As a member and past Co-chair of MassQuilts, Vivien has seen some of the earliest quilts to arrive on our shores, as well as those made from imported and domestic fabrics. She has appraised and documented everything from very early historic quilts to the latest art quilts.

Jim Sullivan**Lecture: "Family Heirloom Crazy Quilt"**

Jim's treasure was "discovered" by an RNQG member at the 2013 RNQG Quilt Show in March when it was presented at the appraisal booth. The quality of the work, the condition and variety of fabrics, and the knowledge that Jim has of the quilt's history are amazing. Tonight he will share his family heirloom and its fascinating story with the entire guild.

JUNE 18, 2014 GUILD MEETING

RNOG



Mingle with guild friends and feast on their favorite dishes at this end-of-the-quilting-year celebration. There's always great variety! Be among the first to learn the details of the guild Summer Challenge" and get the pre-season scoop on programs scheduled for the 2014-15 quilting year.





Comfort Quilts

Thanks to everyone who helped create a comfort quilt this past year, we made 200 comfort quilts in conjunction with the UUAC in Sherborn and the Easton Seniors as well as other friends. These comfort quilts are distributed to people in hospice care in our surrounding area, as well as to people undergoing cancer treatment at CHO in Weymouth and Brockton Hospital, and to our friends and families who are undergoing cancer treatment. You can request a comfort quilt for someone you know who could benefit from a Comfort Quilt, whether they are undergoing cancer treatment or some other major life event.

You can help by sewing a quilt top (approximately 40" x 55"), quilting a quilt top, attending a quilt-a-thon, and/or donating flannel backing or batting for a quilt.

Quilt kits are available in many varieties: 12" blocks, 6" blocks, 3" x 6" blocks (subway tiles), 2.5" strips. You can follow the directions or do your own quilt. Several people have taken the block kits and made half square or quarter square triangles from the blocks.

The kits are made with donated fabrics. If you don't like one or two of the fabrics in the kit, you can always substitute something from your scrap bin or stash. Kits are usually available in a range of colorways - ask and a custom kit can be made up from the many boxes of precut fabrics I have.

Sewing tip of the Month: Did you know that if you put 2 blocks right sides together, sew around all 4 sides with a 1/4" seam, then cut apart on both diagonals, you end up with 4 - 1/2 square triangle blocks? A quick way to make pinwheel blocks or any other triangle quilt. You do need to be careful as the blocks are all on the bias edge, but with careful sewing you shouldn't have an issue.

A Little Quilting Humor

STASH: Special Treasures All Secretly Hidden

MGBTQ: Must Get Back to Quilting

PHD: Project Half Done

SABLE: Stash Accumulation Beyond Life Expectancy

WWIT: What Was I Thinking?

WOMBAT: Waste of Material, Batting and Time

TOAD: Trashed Object Abandoned in Disgust

Good friends are like Quilts – They age with you but never lose their warmth.

Fabrics
Books
Notions

Classes
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Long Arm Quilting