

# Laurel Wreath

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Volume 29 • Issue 3

Newsletter of the Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild

March-April 2012

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Hello Quilting Friends,

The weather the past couple of weeks has had me itching to begin digging in my garden. I know that, from experience and a lifetime lived in New England, it is just too early and I need to wait at least until April. The only way to satisfy the urge to get my hands in the dirt, is to clean. With that in mind, I suppose I can clean my sewing room. There are many new and gently used items that I can work together into baskets for the auction. Since this is our only fundraiser for the non-show year, any and all items that you would be willing to purchase yourself are welcome. The evening is always fun and everyone seems to have a good time. I have seen some heated bidding on some very desirable items. It always seems to bring the room to laughter. While you're putting together items to donate, why not enlist some friends to join you. Guests are welcome on auction night and the guest fee is waived for anyone who attends.

Another thing to be thinking about, since gardening is out of the question at the moment, is volunteering. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a call for volunteers on auction night, as well as members to serve on the board. Why not give something back to the guild that gives so much and think about volunteering.

At our last meeting in February, we had the pleasure of a sneak peak at the Raffle Quilt for 2013. I was impressed by the ingenuity and creativity of our membership. Those who volunteered were given a square of background fabric. They were then asked to create a block with a gardening theme. The final produce is absolutely amazing. A huge thank you is sent to Deb Woodhams for her time organizing, assembling, and quilting the quilt. It should be a great success. With that in mind, and since my thoughts seem to be on volunteering, we also need help with the planning and execution of the quilt show itself. It will be held March 15-17, 2013. We have some chair positions filled, but can still use help. Anyone willing to provide some time, please e-mail me at [lhancock42@aol.com](mailto:lhancock42@aol.com).

Happy Quilting,

Linda Hancock



**RNQG PROGRAMS 2011-2012**

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. If you register for a workshop and find you are unable to attend, there are NO refunds from RNQG. You may find a replacement for your spot and have that individual pay you directly.

**March 21, 2012: Donnalynn Milford**

“With Bestest Love from Aunt Char”

Take a refreshing look at the history of American quilting while hearing short, but amusing, stories about the women who made the quilts. Donnalynn Milford of Glens Falls, NY, brings her trunk show of 40+ quilts and quilt tops to help tell the stories. The collection is said to be one of the best antique quilt collections in the Northeast ranging from the 1830s to the 1940s.

**April 16, 2012: Rockin’ Auction**

The RNQG biennial blast of bidding and bargain-buying returns to the Italian-American Club in 2012! Both silent and live auction segments are planned for the evening. Be sure to bring your checkbook and your friends to this gala event!

**May 16, 2012: Merry May**

“Nothing Up My Hanging Sleeve”

Unusual and entertaining tips and tricks from “The Fudgemaster’s” thirty years of quiltmaking experience. Topics include: “Alternative Shopping,” and “Things My Grandmother Taught Me.” There are many visual samples. Merry is best known for writing mystery quilt instructions under the pen name of “Inspector Cluesew” which began in 1992. Her mysteries have appeared in several magazines, as well as through online venues. Merry was the first person (under the sponsorship of Planet Patchwork and Quiltropolis) to offer a one-day online mystery “workshop,” complete with a chat room for participants. She “retired” the Cluesew name in 2003 and re-launched her popular mystery quilts under the name of “Merry Mahem.”

**May 17, 2012: Full-day Workshop with Merry May**

“Rags to Riches Scrap Quilts”

Beginning with a fabric swap of 4 inch squares, the class moves on to making order out of chaos, and finally assembles the squares into an easy block design with many layout possibilities. Mary has taught this workshop at the Vermont Quilt Festival on several occasions with very good reviews. For Advanced Beginners

**June 20, 2012: Poppin' Potluck**

Bring a favorite dish and a hearty appetite to this final opportunity to mingle with your RNQG friends before the summer break.

**NOTE:** Guild elections will be held this night as part of the annual business meeting.

**Help Wanted: Auction Volunteers**

Guild members are needed to assist with the RNQG Rockin' Auction scheduled for April 18, 2012. This is the only fundraiser for the guild this year!

The tasks and number of volunteers needed are listed below:

- Table Captains (4 – 5) – Responsible for preparing donated items for display and arranging them on tables before the auction begins. Table captains must be available during the afternoon day-of-auction. Some work in advance of auction day may be necessary (e.g., grouping smaller items into themed baskets).
- Check-in Staff (1 – 2) -- Gives bidder numbers to auction guests as they arrive.
- Raffle Ticket sales (1 – 2) -- Sells “Heads or Tails” tickets to auction guests, typically as they arrive.
- Bargain Buys Table Staff (2 – 4) – Records fabric, pattern and book purchases.
- Bid Sheet Collectors (2 – 3) – Removes bid sheets from tables at the end of the silent auction and gives them to the checkout person.
- Check-out “runners” (3 – 4) – assist at the end of the event. Given a list provided by the checkout person, runners collect items for a winning bidder and bring them to the checkout table.
- **One individual needed to write a press release for the auction and submit it to Quilt Fun and local newspapers. This job must be completed by March 15.**

Ideally, all auction-night volunteers should arrive at the Italian-American Club by 6:30 to receive their assignments and instructions. With enough volunteers, staffing of an area can rotate so that everyone can participate in the bidding!

For more information or to volunteer, contact AnneMarie Freitas at 508-668-5671 or by email: [webmaster@rnqg.org](mailto:webmaster@rnqg.org)

### QUILTED COMFORTS

I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who took a quilt top kit or two to work on. More quilts kits will be available at the upcoming meetings, as well as batting and flannel backing for anyone who wants to complete a quilt. We are close to being half way towards our goal of 200 quilts for the year ending in June, but there are only a couple of months left. Any assistance you can provide would be appreciated.

Note that you can pick up a kit for a friend as well. We can use quilts in the fall as well as the spring, so if you want to work on a kit or two over the summer, please do.

I like all the creative ideas that people put into their quilt kits, from adding applique, to doing 1/2 square triangles, to slicing and dicing the big blocks into new shapes and sewing them back together. There is no end to the creativity and love that goes into a comfort quilt.

Regards,

Paul Burega

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### Museum News

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the New England Quilt Museum. There are events planned throughout the year, so visit the museum website often for updates.

As our gift to you, we are offering FREE ADMISSION on the 25th of every month (as long as it falls on a day the museum is normally open). check out the website [www.nequiltmuseum.com](http://www.nequiltmuseum.com)

January 19-March 24: Campaigns & Commemoratives: Quilts for Presidents, an astonishing exhibit of politically-themed quilts, with textiles from 1780 onward, and quilts to honor-or skewer-U.S. Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

August 9-11, 2012: The Lowell Quilt Festival, A Citywide Celebration of Quilts, featuring IMAGES, New England's Premier Judged and Juried Quilt Show. Join us for all the fun at the Lowell Quilt Festival, where galleries and museums around town partner to celebrate the textile arts. There's even a FREE shuttle bus to get you from venue to venue!

This year we are thrilled to announce that our very special guest will be Marianne Fons, co-founder of Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting magazine and television program. Marianne will be appearing with her daughter Mary Fons, who now co-hosts the Love of Quilting television program.

Keep watching the Lowell Quilt Festival website - [www.lowellquiltfestival.org](http://www.lowellquiltfestival.org) - for breaking news on all the fun!

**RNQG Auction: Call for Items**

The RNQG Auction is scheduled for the April 18, 2012. This is our biennial fundraiser held during a non-show year and enables the guild to operate and provide speakers and workshops for the coming year. Your help is requested in providing items or services that can be auctioned. Think a little outside the box. Take a look at the suggestion list provided elsewhere in the newsletter. Clean out your sewing room. If you have any gently used items, new items that never made it out of the package, or fabrics that you bought and now think “what was I thinking, I’ll never use this” why not donate them. Please complete the donation form on line at [www.rnqg.org](http://www.rnqg.org) , and bring your items to any guild meeting prior to April. You can give them to either Linda Hancock or AnneMarie Freitas. Only you can make this a success. Mark your calendar. Bring your other quilting friends who may not be members. Plenty of refreshments and fun will be provided.

**NOMINEES WANTED**

This is a call for nominations for the Board for the 2012-2013 guild year. Now is the time to think about how you can contribute to the running of the guild. If you have a special talent or interest, why not nominate yourself for one of the many board positions. It is a great chance to give back to the guild, as well as meet some wonderful people who give freely of their time and expertise. Positions, as well as duties, are available on our website at [www.rnqg.org](http://www.rnqg.org). If you are interested, please feel free to contact me at [lhancock42@aol.com](mailto:lhancock42@aol.com) or see me at any regular meeting.



**A** is for... **AUCTION !**  
**B**e **C**reative and **D**onate!

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| <b>A</b> Appliqué patterns; angle tools; antique quilts  | <b>N</b> Needles; needle threaders; needle grabbers; themed notecards; novels  |
| <b>B</b> Beads; buttons; boxes; batting; books; baskets; bobbin winders; bookplates; bookends; bags                        | <b>O</b> O'lipfa (ruler safety shield); Ottolites; organizers; fabric origami  |
| <b>C</b> Color tools; circle cutters; cutting mats; chalk; cookbooks; charm packs; fabric calculators                      | <b>P</b> Pins; placemats; piping tools; pin cushions; pillows; printable fabric; patterns; photo transfer paper          |
| <b>D</b> Design wall; instructional DVDs; fabric dyes  | <b>Q</b> Q-snap frames; quilt wash; "Quilter's Assistant" (proportional scale); Quilter's pocket reference               |
| <b>E</b> Embellishments; color evaluator tools   | <b>R</b> Rotary cutters; redwork; rulers; ruler stands; Retayne; reducing glass  |
| <b>F</b> Fat quarters; fabric lengths; finished quilts; flour sacks; scissor fobs; Fray Check; fork pins; foundation paper | <b>S</b> Scissors; stencils; software; spray adhesive; steam-a-seam; sandpaper board; stabilizers; seam rippers          |
| <b>G</b> Gift certificates; fabric glue; quilting gloves; Golden Threads paper   | <b>T</b> Teflon pressing sheets; thread; table runners; template plastic; templates; thimbles; Timtex (for fabric bowls) |
| <b>H</b> Quilt Hangers; hera markers; hoops; handbags; hand cream; handle for rotary rulers                                | <b>U</b> UFO's   |
| <b>I</b> Irons; portable ironing surfaces; Invisi-grip (for rulers); iron cleaner  | <b>V</b> Vacuum attachments (mini); vinyl for appliqué overlay; vintage sewing items                                     |
| <b>J</b> Jelly rolls; journals; quilt-themed jewelry   | <b>W</b> Wall hangings; water-soluble thread; wool; wearables; whimsical themed items                                    |
| <b>K</b> Kits; Kwik Klip (for closing safety pins);  | <b>X</b> X-block ruler   |
| <b>L</b> Light table; quilt labels; lessons; scissor leash; lint remover   | <b>Y</b> Yo-yo makers; YLI products  |
| <b>M</b> Angled mirrors; mugs; micron tip pens; magazines; marking supplies  | <b>Z</b> Zebra fabrics; zippered project storage bags; thread tweeZers   |

**RNQG Auction Pledge Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

I will provide the following items or services for auction:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_

**RNQG Auction Pledge Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

I will provide the following items or services for auction:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Value: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Activities, just in case RNQG isn't keeping you busy enough!**

March 16-18, 2012

Pioneer Valley Quilters of Agawam  
Westfield State University, Westfield, MA

March 24-25, 2012

Thimble Pleasures  
Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational High School, 65 Pleasant St, Upton, Ma

March 30-31, 2012

Quinobequin Quilters  
Needham Masonic Lodge, 1101 highland Ave, Needham, MA

April 12-14, 2012

MQX  
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI  
[www.mqxshow.com](http://www.mqxshow.com)

April 20-21, 2012

North Parish Quilters  
Americial Civic Center, 467 Main St, Wakefield, MA

April 21-22, 2012

Narragansett Bay Quilt Association  
North Kingstown High School, North Kingstown, RI  
[www.nbquilts.org](http://www.nbquilts.org)

June 1-3, 2012

Quilter's Connection  
Arsenal Center for Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, Ma

June 29 – July 1, 2012

Vermont Quilt Festival  
Champlain Valley Exposition Center, Essex Junction, VT  
[www.vqf.org](http://www.vqf.org)

Aug 9-11, 2012

Lowell Quilt Festival  
Lowell, MA

Nov 1- 4, 2012

A Quilters Gathering  
NEW LOCATION  
Radisson Hotel, Manchester NH  
[www.aquiltersgathering.com](http://www.aquiltersgathering.com)

