

# Laurel Wreath

Volume 38 • Issue 3

Newsletter of the Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild

March / April 2021

## A Word From our President...

Dear Members,

After having lived through a year's worth of stress because of a virus and now with all the frenzy about making an appointment for a vaccine, I feel as if my RNQG family keeps me grounded. As president, I have gotten to know my fellow members better. I have witnessed first-hand their dedication and willingness to take on any challenge to succeed in furthering the interests of the guild. In addition, I love the Sew-Alongs, because they provide dedicated sewing time and a chance to deepen my knowledge of quilting through our conversations. I am looking forward to a time when we can all gather together again, but having meetings on Zoom has brought us together in a way that is more inclusive and provides a new and broader prospective. It's been quite a learning curve. Thanks for participating in our journey.

I would be remiss in my duty as president if I didn't spend some time imploring you to volunteer for positions on the board or for a temporary assignment that would help the guild remain strong and vibrant. That's it. That's all I'm going to say about the matter. Please give it some thought.

Stay well. Quilt on.

Venera

**Editor's Note:** Per the RNQG constitution, March is the month for board nominations. This is the perfect time to consider the ways in which you help sustain and support the guild. Job-sharing with a friend is always an option!

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## Quilt Show Announcement...

Anyone who has attended an RNQG quilt show knows that it is much more than a room filled with beautiful quilts. We invite vendors, create raffle baskets, host a special exhibit, have quilt challenge displays and more. It requires hundreds of hours of planning and preparation as well as a dedicated core team of volunteers each of whom takes responsibility for managing/planning one of the separate focus areas. The weekend of the show, all guild members are asked to work one or more tasks: setup, manning a table, white gloving, or takedown. The magnitude of this effort is the primary reason our show is a biennial event.

Construction at our venue (Blue Hills Regional) caused the cancellation the 2019 show; COVID made holding a show in 2021 an impossibility. The guild needs the revenue, but uncertainty of what the "new normal" will bring – including whether Blue Hills will allow rental of their facilities – has led the RNQG board to decide that our next quilt show will occur in 2023.

**FYI:** RNQG has a Quilt Show binder which details the timeline and all the tasks associated with organizing the show. Available to see for the asking!

Committee Reports...

**Treasury**

Though RNQG still has a cash reserve, it is roughly 60% of the amount we had in the bank following our 2017 quilt show. With our next show postponed until 2023, we need to develop an interim plan for fundraising that will allow us to continue to host interesting, quality speakers for the next 16 months.

Programs through June of this year will deplete our reserve by another 6-8%. The only income source for the remainder of this year are proceeds from raffle quilt ticket sales. Raffle ticket sales have not yet covered quilt expenses.

**Comfort Quilts**

The comfort quilt efforts have been very strong this winter - one good thing about the pandemic! Diana A. and I put together project bags for cutting and sewing with 5" squares to use up some of the fabric that has been donated to the guild. Thank you to everyone who has taken a packet to work on.

I also have some completed quilt tops here that need to be finished if you would like to practice some quilting skills.

Since our last meeting we have donated quilts to some new organizations. We have an affiliation now with a foster care agency in Dedham and Attleboro and I just dropped off a bag to a Project Linus representative in Milton. She said their blankets right now are going to homeless shelters for kids aged infant to young adults. We do still support the foster care clients in Berkeley and the college bound students through Rise Up in Worcester.

We are always looking for more help so please contact me if you would like to join in on this rewarding effort!

Thank you ----Terry R contact: [comfortquiltchair@rnqq.org](mailto:comfortquiltchair@rnqq.org)

**NOTE:** For those interested in making a comfort quilt for RNQG, several kits are available for pickup at All About Quilts during normal business hours (Mon – Sat 10AM-4PM)!

Important Dates...

For the 2020-2021 quilting season, all meetings are conducted virtually via ZOOM. The link to a meeting will arrive in your email a day or two prior to the meeting.

**Upcoming Guild Meetings:**  
(Wednesdays, 7 - 9PM)

- March 17 ..... Beth Helfter
- April 21 ..... Allison Wilbur
- May 19 .....TBD
- June 16 ..... Jennifer Watchorn

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**Possible Workshop:**

Date TBD – May 15, 16 or 22

Sashiko with Allison Wilbur

Email [programs@rnqq.org](mailto:programs@rnqq.org) to register

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By popular demand, now twice per month!

**Open Sew-Alongs:**

(Sundays, 10AM – 2PM)

- March 7 and 21
- April 11 and 25
- May 2 and 16
- June 6 and 27
- Summer dates TBD

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**Upcoming Board Meetings:**

(Wednesdays, 7 - 9PM)

May 5

**Please note:** Any RNQG member may attend a board meeting. Please email [president@rnqq.org](mailto:president@rnqq.org) to request an invitation.

**Programs March / April**

**March 17, 2021      7 – 9 PM      ZOOM meeting**

**Beth Helfter      Website: [evapaigequilts.com](http://evapaigequilts.com)  
Topic: “Perfection is Overrated”**

In November 2019, Beth Helfter was hosted by RNQG to teach a workshop about her brainchild “*Accordion Sewn*” Half-Square Triangles. Her technique is an amazing time-saver for lovers of HST patterns. She is not only a wonderful teacher, Beth is witty and articulate –we couldn’t wait to invite her back to charm the entire membership of the guild!



This evening’s program is a lively presentation of Beth’s journey as a quilt maker. Follow her along the path from her first project which was self-taught and (in her words) “frighteningly awful” to today: founder / owner of *EvaPaige Quilt Designs* which features her unique line of quilt patterns.

Included are thoughts on the design process as it unfolds in 20-minute increments (in the midst of the chaos of running a home and raising three small children); how a quilt can be a thing of beauty even without matching seams and perfect points; and the many joys of bringing her designs to the masses. She often discovers that listeners can become converts to the freeing idea that “perfection is overrated”.



Beth recently published a new book “Another Round of Oompah: More Accordion Sewn HSTs to Make Your Scrap Quilts Sing”.

***Names to Know...***

**RNQG Board Members  
2020-21**

President	Venera E.
Vice President	<b>vacant</b>
Secretary	Sue C.
Treasurer	Karen L.
Programs	
2020-21	Karen L.
2021-22	Mary P.
Historian	Lisa S.
Membership	Margaret R and Judy S.
Raffle Quilt Tix	Carol C.
Comfort Quilts	Terry R.
NEQM Rep	Anita L.
Social Media	
Facebook	Venera E.
Instagram	Karen L.
Twitter	AnneMarie F.
Quilt Rack Rental	Diana A.
Connecting Threads	Deb B.
Newsletter	AnneMarie F.
Publicity	<b>vacant</b>
Website	AnneMarie F

*Did you know?* Contact email addresses for board members have always been listed on the “Contact Us” page of the website!

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***Places to Go...***

**RNQG on Social Media**

Click the icon to reach the RNQG page



or reach our private Facebook Group by clicking [<here>](#) .

Want something added to the RNQG social media pages? Email request to [SocialMedia@rnqg.org](mailto:SocialMedia@rnqg.org)!

**April 21, 2021      7 – 9 PM      ZOOM meeting**

**Allison Wilbur      Website: [allisonwilburquilts.com](http://allisonwilburquilts.com)  
Topic: “Trip Around the World”**

If you are *hoping* this lecture will focus on the classic quilt pattern that shares the name of this lecture, then you may be disappointed, but not for long. It is something *far* more exciting!



Allison is an award-winning longarm quilter and quilt artist who spent decades living abroad. Her range of experiences have brought “global textiles, color combinations, and design elements into her quilts”, but these are often paired with traditional American piecing.

Learn about quilting, appliqué, and patchwork traditions in other countries and how to enhance your experience as you travel with a “quilter’s eye.” See textiles and quilted pieces from Japan, Oman, India, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, Thailand, Myanmar and many other countries. View Allison’s quilts made with global fabrics and hear about *Quilt for Change*, a project she founded which uses quilting to inspire social change.

**Date/Time: TBD      ZOOM**  
**½ Day Workshop:      Sashiko – by hand**  
**Member Fee: \$30      Non-Member Fee: \$35**



Sashiko is the Japanese art of white stitching on indigo fabric. Students will see examples of traditional patterns, then learn how to transfer patterns, how to start and end the hand stitched line, and more complex forms.

A variety of samples are displayed to show how you can use sashiko stitching to embellish your quilts and make a number of beautiful handmade gifts. Students should expect to complete a pillow-sized piece in this workshop. Perfect for any level of expertise.

*In the News...*

*Kudos to longtime RNQG member Abby Sullivan who was a contributor listed in the January/February issue of Quiltmania Magazine. Abby’s photographs were used in the feature story about Dianne Miller (a former member of RNQG). Congratulations!*

*Abby is the featured member this month, so read all of this newsletter issue!*

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*Free NEQM admission...*

In appreciation for our annual monetary donation, RNQG receives 4 complimentary passes to the New England Quilt Museum. Each pass allows 2 individuals to visit the museum exhibits free of charge. To request a pass, contact Karen L. ([treasurer@rnqg.org](mailto:treasurer@rnqg.org)).

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*Comfort Quilt Sizes...*

*Members often ask what the dimensions of a comfort quilt should be. There is no single answer, as the size depends on the recipient.*

*Here are some recommendations:*

- Neo Natal    18" X 22"*
- Veterans    34" X 44"*
- Wheelchair 36" X 48"*
- Other        44" X 50"*

*The following lists estimate requirements and resulting quilt sizes for simple quilts made with strips or squares.*

<i>Squares</i>	<i># needed</i>	<i>Layout</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
<i>5" cut</i>	72	8 X 9	36" X 40.5"
<i>6" cut</i>	42	6 X 7	33" X 38.5"

**For Rail Fence**

<i>Strips</i>	<i>Colors</i>	<i>Subcuts</i>	<i>Layout</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
<i>2.5" WOF</i>	3	6.5"	6 X 7	36" X 42"
<i>3" WOF</i>	2	5.5"	7 X 8	35" X 40"



### New England Quilt Museum News

*Until further notice, museum hours are:  
Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM*

#### CURRENT & FUTURE EXHIBITS:

January 7 – March 27, 2021

**EDGES: STUDIO ART QUILT ASSOCIATES**

March 3 – May 22, 2021

**YELLOW AND ORANGE: QUILTS FROM THE PILGRIM/ROY COLLECTION**

March 3 – May 22, 2021

**THE CONSTANT QUILTER: QUILTS BY WENDY REED**

May 25 – September 11, 2021

**QUILTS JAPAN: THE 15<sup>TH</sup> QUILT NIHON**

June 1 – July 31, 2021

**BLENDED QUILTS BY KATHY METELICA CRAY**

#### AVAILABLE FOR STREAMING:

- **Virtual tour of *QUILTED CANVAS III: STILL HERE!***
- **Virtual tour of *DEEDS NOT WORDS: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE***
- **VIRTUAL QUILT GUILDS: RUNNING SUCCESSFUL GUILD MEETINGS ON ZOOM**

As you prepare to visit, please be aware that the staff is taking measures to ensure that your experience is both enjoyable and safe.

- A maximum of 20 visitors are allowed inside the Museum galleries and store at one time
- If we reach capacity, you may be asked to wait outside momentarily
- Face masks are required for everyone inside the building
- Social distancing markers and directional signage are in place to facilitate movement through the galleries and store.
- Hand sanitizer is available at several stations in the galleries and store.
- Our staff regularly sanitizes all high-touch areas throughout the day.

**Please note:** *Free parking* is available 2 blocks from the museum in the National Park Service lot on Dutton Street.

For more information on membership, exhibitions, and events, see: [www.neqm.org](http://www.neqm.org)

### Featured Member...

Abby Sullivan



Abby has been an active member of the RNQG for **30 years**.

She started quilting 34 years ago when her daughter was transitioning from a crib to a bed. She enjoys all facets of quilting, piecing, appliqué and other creative embellishments. As a naïve newbie quilter, Abby chose a Baltimore album quilt as her first significant project. It was to be the wedding quilt for her daughter, Jess, who was 1 year old at the time. The quilt took about 12 years to complete, but it eventually won a 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon at the RNQG show. Jess is 35 now. The quilt is ready whenever she is.

About 15 years ago Abby ventured into another creative outlet, photography. Recently her work behind the lens was featured in an article in *Quiltmania Magazine*, when she photographed Dianne Miller’s quilt collection.

Abby has been married to her husband, Gary, for a *really* long time and has three adult children and two grandchildren.

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### RNQG Member Perks...

Show your RNQG membership card to receive a discount on purchases at the following stores:

All About Quilts 958 Main Street, Walpole

Ann’s Fabrics 235 Turnpike Street, Canton

Emma’s Quilt Cupboard 319 E. Central Street, Canton

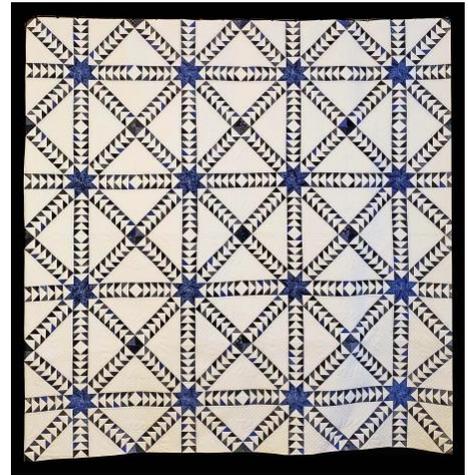
Franklin Mill Store 305 Union Street, Franklin

## Raffle Quilt

The drawing date for the 2021 Raffle Quilt, “Flying Blues” is fast approaching. The winner will be drawn on May 19, 2021, our second to last meeting of the year. The pandemic has impacted all facets of life as we know it. The quilt raffle, a fundraiser that helps sustain the guild operations, is no exception. As of the last estimated financial report, raffle ticket sales income has yet to meet raffle expenses. We are hamstrung by state and federal laws that prohibit selling raffle tickets on-line or using the U.S. postal service. To that end, we are trying to be creative to market the fine craftsmanship of the quilt, currently on display at All About Quilts, in Walpole, MA and seen here, to the right.

As warm weather returns, we are considering practical alternatives to how we traditionally display the quilt and sell tickets in person. If you have suggestions for displaying the quilt and selling tickets, I am open to any and all suggestions.

Carol C.    [raffletix@rnqg.org](mailto:raffletix@rnqg.org)



## *Let's Put Our Heads Together...*

In light of the fact that our next quilt show is deferred until 2023, the guild needs to find an alternate fundraiser for 2022. *Everyone's ideas are welcome and appreciated.*

One thought raised during the board meeting is selling or auctioning the 12" X 12" quilt squares made by RNQG members in response to the 2018 summer challenge. The original plan for these quilts was to mount them on canvas stretcher frames and sell them at the 2019 quilt show. Members have donated about 40 squares to date. Three have been framed. The guild has enough framing components for the rest.

The question is whether it is feasible to sell / auction these somewhere *other* than our quilt show. Creative thinkers and volunteers are needed to investigate options. Things to consider include evaluating online platforms that could meet our needs and the associated cost; identifying the challenges / cost of shipping rigid items that are slightly larger than medium flat-rate postage boxes; determining a price per quilt that would cover our out-of-pocket expenses and provide reasonable profit for the effort.

If online options are not profitable, are there other places where the quilts be sold or auctioned? Or is there something else guild members could make (e.g., unframed 12" quilts, postcard quilts or something else) that would not be as costly to ship.

Email [president@rnqg.org](mailto:president@rnqg.org) to sign up to help out with this research project. Thank you!

### Classified Ads...

**FOR SALE:** Computerized Husqvarna Viking 835 Sewing Machine, 10" sewing area, regular professional maintenance. Includes 15 bobbins, 1/4" Edge Stitching Foot (\$35), Walking Foot (\$120), original manual.

The 10" sewing area is ideal for quilts. \$550 o.b.o. Interested? Email [sawing2010@tohg.org](mailto:sawing2010@tohg.org) for more info.



*Note: Advertising is free for RNQG members. Non-members pay \$1.00 per newsletter (\$5.00 annually)*

### Support our advertisers!

A teal-colored rectangular advertisement for 'All About Quilts'. The text is white and arranged in a clean, professional layout. On the left, the words 'ALL ABOUT QUILTS' are stacked vertically in a large, bold, serif font. To the right, the contact information is listed in a smaller, sans-serif font, including the address, phone number, and email address.

**ALL  
ABOUT  
QUILTS**

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