

Laurel Wreath

Volume 51 • Issue 5

Newsletter of the Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild

May / June 2026

Presidents Letter

Carla Keen

Dear RNQG Members,

Spring is finally here and I hope you are enjoying it as much as we are! Many thanks to all of you who attended our last meeting. We had a wonderful speaker, Amy Friend, on the topic of Alternate Grids and Negative Space. We highly recommend checking out her website. Amy will be back next year! There is a lot afoot for the coming months...here are some highlights:

First of all, please remember that the May 20 meeting will be held at the Walpole Library, not the Knights of Columbus. The doors will open at 630 and the meeting will start at 7. We will have to end on time just before 9 pm as the library will be closing so we are asking you to limit show and tell items to 2 per person. Thank you in advance for this. Our speaker will be Heidi Proffetty on the topic of Making Mosaic Art Quilts.

Secondly, for those participating in the Quilt Buddy program, perhaps you could tuck a clue about your identity into your gift this month. The reveal will of course be at the June meeting.

Jacqui O'Brien will have some FABULOUS bags with our logo available...I already have mine and have been using it! Thank you Jacqui!

We will be voting on the slate of officers for the Board next year. The list is published later in this newsletter. You may notice a new position, Member at Large. Kathleen Yorkis has graciously agreed to help us with coordination of members' suggestions and concerns and the implementation of new ideas. Thank you Kathleen!

We are still in need of a vice president and someone to organize and market the next raffle quilt. We will also be letting you know of some committee openings. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know others and have fun. We try to foster a team effort with low stress and lots of fun on both the Board

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and the committees. Please consider joining in, the small jobs make a big difference.

One last comment, it's not too soon to plan for summer and fall activities and we have lots of information here in this newsletter... more to follow at the meeting.

For the May 20 gathering, please bring along your show and tell, comfort quilt donations, quilt buddy gifts, and of course lots of smiles! We hope to see you then!

Carla Keen
Cathy Kelliher

A note from Cathy Kelliher:

Mystery Shop Hop Friday August 14- Saturday August 15.

Sign up at the May or June Meetings for this event.

1. Find a driver and collect passengers who will each pay the driver \$10 for gas
2. Decide on a North experience or a South experience
3. Envelopes will be provided on the day that will contain your destination/address and places for lunch
4. You can do both days for North and South or just one day
5. Will meet at All About Quilts parking lot between 8am and 9am for envelopes

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

There is a lot of **NEW content** in this newsletter!

We are a busy productive guild!.

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RNQG Board Members 2025-2026		COMMITTEES / ACTIVITIES	
President	Carla K.	Connecting Threads	Nancy P.
Vice President	Cathy K.	Quilting Buddies	Stephanie V.
Secretary	Ines A.	Quilting Buddies	Venera E.
Treasurer	Karen L.	Shop Hop	Cathy K. Jean R.
Programs 2025-26 2026-27	Lisa S. Jacqueline F.	Social Events and Social Media Zoom sew-along Bread and Thread Community Posts Facebook Instagram	Venera E.
Membership	Gail W. Stephanie V.	Retreat	Jacqui O. Jacqueline F.
Raffle Quilt Organizer Marketing	Marci T. VACANT	Studio Tour	Terry R. Diana A.
Comfort Quilts	Terry R. Gail W.	Youth Outreach	Jessica W.
NEQM Rep	Laura R.	Fabric Sale	Maureen Mc.
Quilt Rack Rental	Billie K.		
Newsletter	Susan K.		
Publicity	Maureen M		
Website	AnneMarie F. Sarah S.		
Historian	Zelayna R.		
Show Chair 2027	Terry R.		

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RNQG 2026-2027 BOARD NOMINATIONS

President	Cathy Kelliher
Vice President	OPEN
Secretary	Ines Arismendi
Treasurer	Karen LeBlanc and Gail Williams
Programs	2026-2027 Jacqui O'Brien and Jacqueline Fleishman
	2028-2029 Carla Keen
Website	Sarah Sullivan
Publicity	Susan Bernard
Newsletter	Susan Krantz
Comfort Quilts	Terry Ruta
Historian	Zelayna Rauch
Liaison to NEQM	Laura Rosenspan
Membership	Maureen McEntee
Member at Large	Kathleen Yorkis
2027 Quilt Show	Terry Ruta
Storage Racks	Diiana Annis
2029 Raffle Quilt organization	OPEN Starts after 2027 Quilt Show
Raffle Quilt Marketing	Fairs: Terry Ruta
	Ticket sales to members and stores: Cathy Kelliher
	Member ticket distribution: Carol Coakley

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UPCOMING GUILD MEETINGS

MAY 20 Wednesday in person at the **WALPOLE LIBRARY**

MAY 20 IS A WEEK LATER THAN USUAL.

JUNE 17 Wednesday in person

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: Note: day changed to Tuesday

Meeting is from 7 – 9 pm

MAY 5 Tuesday Canton (Carla's house)

Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

COMMUNITY POSTINGS

Venera E.

Zoom Sew-Along

Monday	5/11	6 - 9 p.m.
Wednesday	5/27	1 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday	6/2	6 - 9 p.m.
Wednesday	6/24	10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bread and Thread Lunches: Panera Bread, Walpole Mall

Wednesdays 12 - 2 p.m.

5/13

6/10

Quilting Buddies

All those who applied are partnered up with a buddy. If you are part of the program, you can look for a little something from your quilting buddy at each meeting. If you have a buddy, remember to bring a little something to brighten their day to every meeting. If you can't come to a meeting, ask a friend to bring your gift or wait until next month and bring two. You will find your surprise in a plain brown bag with your name on it. This should be lots of fun. Remember, this is a, "Don't ask. Don't tell" program. You will find out who your Quilting Buddy is in June. In the meanwhile, enjoy the process.

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SCHOLARSHIP

Abby Sullivan

As part of our RNQG philanthropic activities, we proudly offer a \$500 annual scholarship to a graduating high school student pursuing the Arts.

Traditionally, the RNQG Scholarship is awarded to a student from a selected guild member's town, with the lucky recipient chosen by the board.

For 2025, the board selected the town of Walpole. However, after several phone calls and multiple emails to the guidance department (which appear to be floating somewhere in cyberspace, possibly held hostage by a spam filter), we've decided it may be time for a new plan.

Since this scholarship supports a student pursuing the Arts — and we know creativity runs strong in our guild families — we're opening this year's opportunity to the children, grandchildren, and friends of guild members.

If you know a deserving student with talent, passion, and perhaps a flair for dramatic acceptance speeches, please submit their name. We will draw the recipient from the submitted nominations (no drumroll required... but certainly encouraged). We look forward to seeing your nominations — and to supporting a rising star in the Arts!

MEETING VENUE CHANGE UPDATE:

Cathy Kelliher

At our recent board meeting the members asked to have the entire membership consider moving our monthly meetings from the 3rd Wednesday of the month to the **3rd Tuesday of the month.** This is due to the fact that finding a new meeting venue that is affordable is difficult because many places we could consider are not available on Wednesdays. More discussion will be at our March meeting. If any members have ideas for a new venue, we will welcome them.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER

Karen L.

Any questions regarding financial status please contact the Treasurer, Karen LeBlanc, Kmlatfdc@aol.com

COMFORT QUILTS

Terry Ruta

COMFORT QUILTS: I collected 30 quilts at our last meeting - amazing! Since my last update we donated 10 quilts to the Justice Resource Institute Foster Care Program in Fall River. They are taking in 8 new children this month, 7 of which are from 1 family! A teen boy is included in that group, so I sent along one of our larger quilts in colors appropriate for a male. They are very grateful for our donations.

If anyone has large heavy plastic or brown bags with handles that I could have, that would be great. The size I'm looking for are ones that will hold up to 6 or so quilts.

Our 4 Habitat for Humanity quilts will be handed in by the end of May for the turnover of the house to the new owners in June. Thanks to Sue Crane, Cathy Andrew, Kathy Rose, Cathy Doucette and Reyna Tillman for making quilts for this family!

Our Quilt of Valor quilt has been completed - thank you to all that helped out! I will have it at the meeting to show everyone before it is sent off to the coordinators of the QOV presentation at the Marshfield Fair in August!

I am still accepting NICU quilts (all cotton please!) and children's pillowcases.

SHOW QUILT TOWN DAYS: Our 2027 raffle quilt, Common Threads, has begun its travels! Walpole Day was 5/9 and Canton Day is 5/16. The next 2 days will be Norwood Day on 8/29 and Discover Medfield Day on 9/26. Please let me know if you would like to join the fun and volunteer to be at our table on one of these dates!

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2027 COMMON THREADS QUILT SHOW

Dates: April 9 (set up 3pm - 9:30pm), April 10 (10am to 5pm), April 11 (10am to 4pm)

Location: Walpole Middle School

Admission: \$10, children under 12 are free. RNQG members who are there to volunteer do not pay admission.

Members can enter 3 quilts excluding Look What I Made in Class and Show Challenge quilts. After the initial 3 are entered by all participating members, we will add more as space allows.

Members will have the opportunity to have their quilts professionally judged on Saturday, April 3, by Pat Harrison. The cost will be \$10/quilt with no limit on the number of quilts one member can have judged. Ribbons will be awarded by Pat and will hang on the quilts the duration of the show.

Our voting ballots will ask guests for their 5 favorite quilts in no ranking order. The top 5 quilts will have a ribbon placed on them before the show opens on Sunday.

Vendors will also be awarding ribbons for their favorite quilts.

Show Quilt Categories to be announced soon.

New Features:

Show Challenge - For the 2027 Quilt Show we will have a Quilt Show Challenge. The theme for the challenge is 'Rhododendrons' which helps to promote our guild name. To align with the quilt show's theme, 'Common Threads', participants will receive two coordinating fat quarters in pink and green, colors that are aligned with our logo. To participate, members will contribute five dollars for the fat quarters. If you complete your quilt by the deadline, you will get your five dollars back! The quilt must be 20" x 20" and 50% of the quilt must include fabric from the pink and green fat quarters. This will provide a cohesive, vibrant, spring-time display of our talents. The challenge will be introduced at the May or June meeting and the finished quilts will be due in February.

Meet the Quilter - 3 of our guild's founding members - Sue Crane, Judy Swaim, Renie Howard - will have a small display of their quilts and a summation of their

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quilting history. They will be at the show at scheduled times to chat with guests and answer questions. Congratulations to our inaugural Meet the Quilters!

In Memoriam - We hope to honor a member who passed last summer - Joy Sudduth - with a display and history of her quilting talents.

Committee Chair Needed: Judging Day Coordinator. Tasks include organizing the volunteers for the judging day, registering guild members who want their quilts judged and being the contact person between the guild and the judge. Please let me know if you would like to help out!!

And MOST IMPORTANTLY - make beautiful, gorgeous quilts!! It will be an honor to show off our members' amazing talents!!

Thank you,
Terry Ruta

PROGRAM CHAIR

Lisa S.

2025-2026 PROGRAMS!

May 20 we will be hearing from Heidi Proffetty on Making Mosaic Art Quilts and on the **23rd** she will present her workshop making Moroccan Quilt Tiles

On **June 17** we will welcome Marge Tucker who will share her "Life in Quilts" and on the **20th** will present her workshop Improve Dresden Plate.

While many have signed up, there is still room in each workshop. Also, all workshops will be held at All About Quilts. Doors will be open hopefully by 9:30 so you can get in and set up so our workshops start on time.

See you soon,
Lis

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NEQM NEWS:

Laura Rosenspan

This is a fabulous museum, and we should go more often!

We share the belief that quilt making is an important artistic legacy that must be advanced, respected and celebrated.

Guild passes are now electronic:

8 complimentary admissions are now stored in our membership record at the admissions desk. Bring your membership card. Janet Elia's beautiful quilt is now up and part of the NE Guild's exhibit. I noticed so many more details like the fussy-cut pieces. Sensational, Janet. And you will all certainly find inspiration from the other wonderful quilts in this display.

RNOG Tote bags for sale!

Take one home at the next guild meeting

These totes will be available for sale at the May and June guild meetings.

Boat Style tote:

- Heavy duty canvas
- 20" W x 16" H
- 25" Handles
- Deep outside pocket
- Inside drop pocket
- Zipper closure

Bags are \$30.00

*Pay by cash, check (made out to RNQG)
and Venmo



Ice Dyeing Workshop for RNQG Members
Sponsored by Canizzaro Creations



DATE: Saturday, July 25, 11-3pm. **CLASS IS FULL** We have 2 members on the wait list, should you be interested, please contact us and we will add you to the wait list. IF, we get 5 or more members on the wait list, we will arrange a second workshop with Cannizzaro Creations.

Any questions about the workshop can be directed to Jacqueline Fleishman Truflztoo@gmail.com and/or Jacqui O'Brien – Jacquio136@aol.com

GLOBAL QUILT CONNECTION

The Global Quilt Connection's Spring All-Star Sampler Platter (ASSP)
May 16th (Saturday) and 17th (Sunday), 2026.

18 Amazing Teachers!

18 Amazing Demonstrations!

Something to please every type of quilter!

The Sampler includes:

- 6 hours (over two days) of 15-minute demonstrations by Global Quilt Connection teachers.
- **THE VIEWING LINK was sent out in a guild email on May 6th.**
- The show opens exactly at 3pm each day and ends at 6pm.
- **Can't make the live event, the viewing link will be available for 7 days after each of the events,** you can watch or rewatch the recorded sessions.
- There is a 24-page handout with a page dedicated to each teacher's mini workshop or lecture. This booklet is available through the viewing link.
- There is a limited edition 'Sampler' box for purchase, go to the viewing link for details as to what is included in the box. Some items in the kit: Fat Quarters, Karen Kay Buckley scissors, needles, rotary cutters and more ...

A couple of rules for our guild members:

- You can not sell tickets to this event
- You can not share the link with anyone who is not a member of our guild.

Any questions, you can contact Jacqui O'Brien – Jacquio136@aol.com

RNQG FABRIC SALE

This FALL RNQG will be holding its first fabric sale at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Norwood. The profits will be used for supplies for our Comfort Quilt Program and for our monthly programs and classes.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need your donated quilting fabric! This is the perfect opportunity to edit your stash and get ready for new fabric. We will be collecting your fabric donations at the next three RNQG meetings. If it is more convenient, you can drop it off at All About Quilts, in Walpole on Monday nights between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm with a prior phone call to Maureen McEntee 781-789-1316. All fabric will be donated, we will not be accepting any fabric on consignment. All left-over fabric will be donated to Quilted Comforts and the Quilt Show Boutique.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Patterns

Complete Unused Quilt Kits

Quilting Fabric from Fat Quarters to multi yard pieces

- Please trim fabric ends straight across if they have been cut into
- Mark yardage amounts with masking tape or pinned paper.

Please don't use staples.

- Fold fabric selvages to middle crease and then fold again.
- We will price the fabric.

Volunteers Volunteer sheets will circulate later but we will need members to help with set up, take down and cashiers especially those who have experience with credit cards. If we all work together this will be a great fundraiser

Website

AnneMarie Freitas and Sarah Sullivan

Important RNQG Website and Email Communication Changes – Action Required!

We've modernized our website and email communications. Please read the following important changes to ensure you don't miss any guild announcements, newsletters, or Zoom invitations.

1. Updated website - www.rnqg.org

Our website address is still the same! You will notice a more modern look and feel. Please continue to use the website to get the latest information, events, and resources.

2. Change to "Contact Us" for members and non-members

The old email addresses (e.g., president@rnqg.org) are no longer active. If you need to contact a board member, please use the Contact Form on the new website: Contact Us – Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild. Using the Contact Form ensures your message is sent to the right person and to their correct email address. Non-members will also use the Contact Form on the website to contact the guild.

3. Change to Guild Member Email Distribution List

We've launched a new official email list: rnqgmembers@googlegroups.com.

- Only board members will use this email list to provide official RNQG communications (newsletters, announcements, Zoom links, etc.) to RNQG members.
- Only invited members can join this group and the list is not visible to anyone outside the group.
- If you need to contact a board member, use the Contact Form on the website.

Action Required: If you haven't received or accepted an invitation to join the Google group email list, please reach out to one of the board members ASAP. We want to ensure every member is connected and informed.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation as we improve our communication tools.

Sue Spargo – Pansy Pincushion – September 19th workshop

REGISTRATION ENDS ON JUNE 17, 2026

Only a few spots left



Have you always wanted to make a Sue Spargo wool ‘treasure’ and learn some of those wonderful stitches? Here is your chance, we are offering the opportunity to take a class and do a small project that would allow you to dip your toes in the Sew Spargo wool applique world. In the end you will have a beautiful pincushion of wools that is velvet backed. This is a GREAT introduction into wool

applique the Sue Spargo way.

We will be ordering the required wool kit (pattern and wool) and optional book.

There will be a second kit that the instructor will put together with the threads and needles, saving you some money so you don’t have to buy spools and spools of thread, unless you want to – go for it!

DATE: Saturday, September 19, 10am-4pm

WHERE: Lower Level, Blackburn Hall
(30 Stone Street, Walpole MA)

FEES (pick a bundle - wool kit and pattern are required):

1. Bundle 1 - \$100.50 – includes workshop fee, wool kit and pattern
2. Bundle 2 - \$124.50 – includes workshop fee, wool kit, pattern and book
3. Thread/Needle kit - \$8.00 – includes wool thread strands and 3 needles, paid directly to the teacher day of the event. Thread kit is not required if you have your own embroidery and wool threads



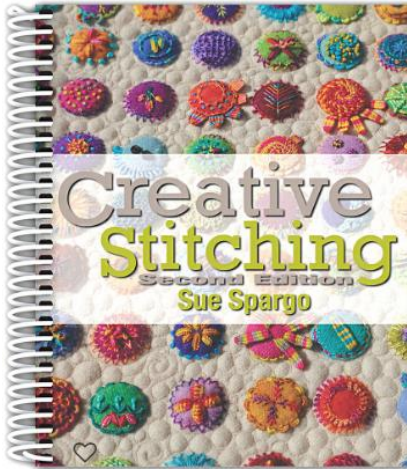
SIGN-UP: May & June 2026

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Optional book for Sue Spargo embroidery stitches. Sue's book 'Creative Stitching' includes concise written instructions, along with clear illustrations, for 50 of Sue's favorite stitches. Included are close up, color, photographic examples of each of the stitches used. The beginning of 'Creative Stitching' gives you a detailed look into the needles and threads Sue uses, and throughout the book are never before seen color photographs of Sue's work.

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RNQG 2026-2027 WORKSHOP SIGN UP FOR:

Sue Spargo – Pansy Pincushion Workshop and Kit order form

REGISTRATION FOR THIS CLASS ENDS ON JUNE 17, 2026

TERMS and CONDITIONS

FEES: *Fees are due at time of registration; you are not considered registered until payment is received.*

Payment may be made by check or Venmo.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you are registered for a fee workshop and are unable to attend, RNQG will issue a refund *if and only if* there is a wait list and someone claims your space. If there is no wait list, you are advised to try to find your own replacement. In this case, the person taking your spot should pay the workshop fee to you directly. Can't attend a sponsored workshop, please let the program chairs know so a waitlisted person can attend in your place.

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

_____ Rita Partridge – Sue Spargo's Pansy Pincushion - Wool applique and embroidery

Saturday, September 19, 2026 at Blackburn Hall (lower level) 30 Stone Street, Walpole.

**Across the parking lot from All About Quilts. In between Walpole Fire station and Walpole Library.

There are 2 different fee bundles to choose from. The pattern and wool kit are required for the workshop. Book and the instructors thread/needle kit are not required but will be available for order and purchase.

_____ Bundle 1 – Includes Workshop fee and Wool Kit with pattern (\$100.50)

_____ Bundle 2 – Includes Workshop fee, Wool Kit with pattern and book (\$124.50)

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The thread kit will be available from the teacher on the day of the event; the thread kit fee will be paid directly to the teacher. \$8 (designed to save you \$\$\$), includes lengths of Ellana Wool Thread and an Embroidery 3 Needle pack.

- For Pansy Pincushion workshop and fees make Check payment: made payable to RNQG and mail with this completed form to:
Karen LeBlanc
97 Anderer Lane, #307
West Roxbury, MA 02132
- Venmo payment
Email your registration details (name, phone, email address and desired workshops) to treasurer@rnqg.org. Venmo details will arrive in your email shortly thereafter. Any questions about the workshop can be directed to Jacqueline Fleishman trufztoo@gmail.com and/or Jacqui O'Brien Jacquio136@aol.com

RNQG Announcement: Jane Stickle Quilt and Bennington Museum Bus Trip

Following up on Sarah Sullivan's wonderful presentation on the Jane Stickle Quilt at the March guild meeting, we are planning a **one-day bus trip** see the **actual Jane Stickle quilt** while it is displayed from Labor Day to Columbus/Indigenous People's Day.

The Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vermont, a 3-hour drive from Walpole, owns and displays the quilt. It is on exhibit for a short period each year in order to preserve it. Accordingly, the bus trip is planned for **Thursday, September 17, 2026**. The Robert Frost Stone Museum is nearby and may be an included stop.

So far, twelve folks signed up at the April guild meeting. We need a minimum of 18-20. The Museum can accommodate a larger group but we need to provide an expected number in advance. The Museum offers both self-guided tours at \$13/person and 90-minute guided tours at \$17/person if we have at least 10 people. Plans are tentative at this point but we expect to leave about 7:30AM and return about 7:30PM. We likely will stop for a late lunch or early supper before heading back to MA. The cost of the trip will be determined by the number of people going as this will impact the size and cost of the bus. RNQG members have first dibs on this trip. Depending on the number of firm replies, we may open it up to other guilds

Based on feedback we receive during this month of May, we will have additional, definitive information available at the May guild meeting, May 29. **Kindly email Carol Coakley at cacoakley@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.** With only two guild meetings left before our planned trip to Bennington, we need to firm up plan **now**. There is no time like the present so get on it and see a remarkable piece of American quilting history during the 250th birthday of our country.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Rhody & Friends Quilting Retreat ~ March 11-14, 2027



DETAILS and REGISTRATION COMING SOON !

Hope you will join in on the fun this year!

ONCE AGAIN, being held at the SeaCrest resort in North Falmouth!

