



The Comforter

Crosstown Quilters

February 2025

President's Letter



Hello Ladies,

January was certainly a challenge. It was cold, windy, snowy and icy. Canceling a meeting is always a tough decision. But I am thankful for our very thoughtful PPIA manager, Tim Barry.

After that snowstorm and the continuing cold weather, he was very concerned about the condition of the parking lot and reached out to me suggesting we cancel the first meeting of January. With the cold continuing, even the second January meeting was in jeopardy. Tim came through for us and the parking lot was in very good condition for the meeting. And we had a wonderful turnout. Thanks to all of you for trusting us and making your way to the meeting. It was very heart warming.

Our speaker, Beth Sullivan, was wonderful. Her passion for her craft is evident. I hope she inspired you to attempt a T-shirt quilt or a memory quilt. I have made exactly one quilt using T-shirts; I may have to put a T-shirt quilt on my list of potential projects in the future.

So, what did the ground hog predict this year? Six more weeks of winter or an early spring? In either event, the weather can be unpredictable. What better reason to stay in and spend some time in our warm sewing rooms. After all, we have a quilt show coming up eight months and we are hoping you will enter your beautiful quilts in the show.

Speaking of the quilt show, we have signed the rental agreement for the venue at the Cardinal Cushing Centers. I am thrilled to have that piece locked down. Now the real work begins. There will be lots of opportunities to help make the show a success. The team leaders will be looking for volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be available soon. Any job, big or small, will help make the show a success. So, think about where you can make a difference.

In closing, I share a little joke to make you chuckle:

You: This year, I resolve to finish one sewing project before starting another...
Your significant other: This is New Year's not April Fool's.

Sew on - whether it is a UFO or a new project, Edith

Program Highlights

February 11 Valentine Swap*

February 25 Laura Rosenspan will present on textile design and landscapes.

March 24-26 Retreat at Bayside Resort in West Yarmouth#

October 18-19 Our Quilt Show at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover

*Valentine Swap

We hope you will participate in this voluntary event – it's lots of fun! Just fill a brown paper lunch bag with the 5 items listed below. At the meeting you'll swap it for a different grab bag.

- 2 Fat Quarters (Valentine theme/color)
- Small sewing notion
- A tasty chocolate/candy/treat
- Valentine card signed by you (it can be homemade)

#What to Bring to the Retreat

Excerpted from AllPeopleQuilt.com, June 2020

What does the ideal retreat look like? "I think of a retreat as a sisterhood of friends who gather to sew and chat. It's about the friendships made and time spent together." Jo Morton, designer and teacher

"My ideal retreat includes longtime friends, plenty of good snacks, and a six-foot table all to myself." Jody Sanders, group editor

What should I do to prepare for the retreat?

Clean your machine and make sure it's in good working order

Protect your sewing machine in transport by packing it in a padded case or box with the presser foot down on a piece of fabric and the needle up (or remove it)

Replace your sewing machine needle and rotary cutting blades

Wind multiple bobbins so you don't have to interrupt your retreat sewing time

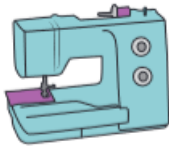
Consider cutting pieces at home so you can spend retreat time piecing

Read carefully through your pattern to make sure you have all the fabrics and tools needed

Coordinate who will bring items that can be shared like ironing stations, cutting mats, and design walls

Consider bringing multiple projects to work on in case you happen to finish a project sooner than expected or get bored or frustrated with the project. You may also want to bring some handwork like English paper piecing or embroidery to work on when you need a break from your machine

What do I pack (besides a great sense of humor!)?



WHAT TO PACK: SEWING RETREAT



SEWING, CUTTING, PRESSING

- Rotary cutter
- Scissors
- Small cutting mat
- Ruler
- Sewing machine (including foot pedal and power cord!)
- Neutral thread (plus colors needed for specific projects)
- Prewound bobbins
- Pins and pincushion
- Needle threader
- ¼-inch foot
- Walking foot
- Zipper foot
- Seam ripper
- Shelf liner to put under machine
- Wide rubber bands to hold foot control in place
- Spray bottle for water (to use at ironing station)
- Wooden seam presser
- Portable pressing surface
- Mini iron
-

EXTRA, EXTRA

- Extra sewing machine needles
- Spare rotary cutter blades
- Fabric basting glue
- Fusible web
- Marking tools
- Specialty rulers or acrylic templates
- Freezer paper
- Interfacing
- Batting
- Container or tool caddy
- Notebook and pencil
-
-
-

ASK IF YOU NEED TO SUPPLY:

Bedding, towels, blow dryer, extension cords, large cutting mat, iron, or ironing board. If you'll be walking between buildings, don't forget umbrella, flashlight, and boots.

PROJECTS

- List projects, kits, and any special supplies needed for each.
-
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -

MORE RETREAT TIPS:

- Kits are great for retreats, everything is in one bag ready to go. Make sure you include the instructions.
- For extra special retreats, make signature blocks and have each attendee sign one. Put them together in a wallhanging for a memento.
- As a courtesy to other attendees, ask before you post any photos to social media. Someone may be working on a special project they don't want shared or they may be in their jammies (yes, all day!) and don't want their photo shared.
- Bring handwork for when you are tired of sewing at your machine.



At the New England Quilt Museum

Visit the New England Quilt Museum (<https://www.neqm.org/>) at 18 Shattuck Street, Lowell
Open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm



Ann Harwell, Wendell, North Carolina
Jupiter's Red Spot, 2019

Special Event on March 15

What's Hidden Inside Planets?
Guest speaker Sabine Stanley, PhD with John Wenz

Through March 29

Just Wanna Copyright for Makers *and*
Maker Unknown
Selections from the permanent collection

Through May 3

Fierce Planets
A Studio Arts Quilts Associates (SAQA) and Johns
Hopkins Global Wavelengths Exhibit

At the Fuller Craft Museum

Visit the Fuller Craft Museum (<https://fullercraft.org/>) at 455 Oak Street, Brockton
Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 am – 5 pm
Free admission, donations welcomed

March 1 – August 31

Art Evolved: Intertwined is a collaboration between Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) and the National Basketry Organization. Nearly 60 artists from both organizations will explore the connections between quilting and basketry, beauty and functionality.

Upcoming Quilt Shows & Workshops in Massachusetts

Details at <https://sewmanysows.com/calendar/>.

March 13: 6 pm Burlington Quilt Guild Auction

Learn more at <https://www.burlingtonquiltersguild.org/>

The auction takes place at Burlington Senior Center, 61 Center Street, Burlington

March 15: 10 am Cornerstone Quilters Guild Annual Quilt Show

The show takes place the Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St, Charlton

FREE ADMISSION

Learn more at <https://sites.google.com/view/cornerstone-quilters-guild/home>

March 22-23: 10 am – 4 pm Quilts 250: Stitching in the Spirit of Democracy

This show takes place at Concord Academy, 166 Main St., Concord

FREE ADMISSION

Learn more at <https://www.quiltersconnection.org/Quilts250.html>

April 5: 10 am A Ruby Celebration by Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild

This show takes place at Blue Hills Regional Technical High School, 800 Randolph St., Canton

Learn more at https://www.rnqg.org/joomla1_5/quilt-show

April 12: 10 am Quilted Jewels Quilt and Craft Show

This show takes place at the United Parish Church, 115 Main St. (Route 58), Carver

Learn more at <https://sewmanysows.com/event/quilted-jewels-quilt-and-craft-show-carver-ma/>

May 3-4: 10 am – 4 pm Hands All Around Quilt Show

This show takes place at the Hampshire College Crowne Gym, 893 West St., Amherst

Learn more at <https://www.handsacrossthevalley.org/quilt-show/>

Quilts 250 Will Showcase Work of Crosstown Quilters

The Quilts 250 show in Concord will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolutionary events of April 19, 1775 along Battle Road in Lincoln, Concord, Lexington, and Arlington, Massachusetts.

Showcasing the creative energy of quilters near and far, the show will display 250 quilts that visually express, through fabric and thread, themes related to our country's founding and evolution and the dynamic range of quilting arts in the last 250 years.



Chosen from among 350 entries, **Barbara Graceffa's modern quilt named Betsy 2.0 will be included.** A wonky star within another wonky star, the quilt uses an antique red basket quilt as part of its asymmetrical stars and stripes original pattern. **Joyce Hochstrasser** quilted the piece.

Keeping You in Stitches

Disappearing Act *Author unknown*

Where do all my pins disappear to? I've picked up all the ones off the floor.
But when I put them back into their box, it looks as though there should be more.

What became of the needle I had in my hand when I picked up the spool to thread it?
It seems to have vanished into thin air, but that explanation I can't credit.

How does my thimble disappear from the basket where it was laid?
I haven't heard it rolling 'round on the floor as it did when the cats with it played.

What did I do with that fabric I need that I had just an hour ago?
I put it away, but in what place? It's somewhere that it doesn't show.

The magazine with the pattern I liked was right on top of that pile.
I guess it's sunk, but how far down in such a little while?

I know that book went back on its shelf with books of its kind.
But I just can't find it, though I've looked some 20 times.

I don't know why things I know that I had disappear when I put them away
I find it annoying but I very much fear, it's a problem that's here to stay.

All Calories Removed

Quick and Easy Winter Tortellini Soup (Serves 4)

Adapted from Quincy Council on Aging December 2024 newsletter

- 1 49 oz. can or carton of (low sodium) chicken broth
- 1 9 oz. refrigerated package of your favorite tortellini
- 1-4 T tomato paste
- Salt and pepper to taste (try lemon pepper which pairs nicely with chicken broth)
- If desired, add minced garlic and dried rosemary, thyme, and basil for added flavor



Bring the broth to a boil, add tortellini, and cook according to instructions. Add remaining ingredients. Pair with a garden salad or slice(s) of French bread. Bon appétit!

*The quilt shown on the newsletter heading is Barbara Graceffa's "Boston" quilt.
Would you like to have your quilt featured? Or have other newsletter content to share?*

Please email it to Barb at secretary_of_the_interior@yahoo.com