The Comforter

Crosstown Quilters Newsletter
Fall 2026

President's Letter



Do you have special autumnal memories or activities?

For me, it's my favorite season. In days gone by, I really enjoyed raking leaves. I enjoyed the crisp air and warm and earthy shades of fallen leaves.

For you, maybe fall commands thoughts of pumpkin spice lattes, soups and chilis, and other comfort foods. Or don you now cozy sweaters, shawls, and your favorite boots for activities like football games, hiking, or apple picking to signal the season. To decorate your home, you shop for orange or white pumpkins, mums in your favorite colors, and sprigs of bittersweet.

And we will soon plan for a gastronomic feast. Thanksgiving celebrates the community of family and friends. It also captures the season of gratitude and festive energy. In short, this holiday is so inviting, it just exudes warmth.

As I pen this letter, I never thought about the shared vibes between autumn and quilting. Our quilts are colorful and cozy. We enjoy the community of guest presenters and fellow guild members. And the plentitude of quilt shows and craft fairs inspire and feed our souls.

In closing, I urge you to embrace your favorite fall traditions while finding respite time in your quilting studio. The outcomes are the same.

Read on for more fall delights in Annmarie's fabulous newsletter …

Yours warmly,

Barbara Graceffa, President

Welcome New Members!

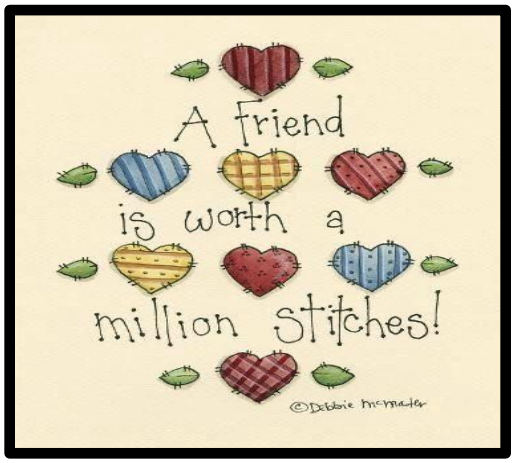


Photo credit: Pinterest

Membership Chair Sheryl Briggs invites us to welcome these new members.

From Braintree:	Anne Bregoli, Kathy Fagan, and Cheryl Psaros
From Bridgewater:	Cindi Meaney (Cindi is a returning member)
From Marshfield:	Catherine Armstrong
From Quincy:	Mary Haskins
From Randolph:	Raj Ohri
From Weymouth:	Ida Cruz, Maryellen Lawrence, Lynn Lyndon, and Karen Quigley

Our Members are HOT!

This group of "Hot Ladies" came to a meeting prepared to play Left/Right/Center, AND to stay cool on a warm day!


Photo Credit: Sandy C.

Programs

Finishing 2026 Strong

October 27	Speaker Amy Friend - lecture on "All Things Petal and Stem"
November 10	Guild members will present a Round Robin Technique
December 8	Christmas Party luncheon and raffles

Looking Forward to 2027

January 12	Members Helena Madden and Betty Ann Doherty will present on the Collage Technique
January 26	Member Coni Wessman presents her Unfinished Masterpiece
February 9	Valentine Swap
February 23	My Favorite Gadget Show & Tell presented by members
March 9, 23	TBD
April 13	Speaker Linda Pearl TBC
April 27	Speaker Sue Michaels TBC
May 11	TBD
May 25	Members' Grand Show and Tell
June 8	End of Year Luncheon

Crosstown Quilters Challenge Quilt



Photo credit: Pinterest

A Quilted Cake Wall Hanging Instructions

The finished wall hanging will be due the first meeting in September 2027. Please remember to keep your design anonymous throughout the process. All entries will be displayed and voted on by the members. All entries will need a label, but the label needs to be covered for voting. Ribbons will be awarded to the top three vote getters.

Your cake should be either three or four layers tall in your choice of colors and it must be embellished. You can embellish any way you choose, but you must use at least five embellishments from this list:

Appliqué	Doilies	Ribbon
Beads	Embroidery	Rick-rack
Buttons	Fabric paint	Yarn
Charms	Lace	Yo-yos
Decorative stitching	Pom poms	Zippers

The finished wall hanging needs to measure 20" wide and 24" long. Be creative and have fun!

Upcoming Quilt Events in New England

The Sew Many Shows website lists quilt shows and fiber art events in New England. Sign up for their monthly newsletter. Go to this link for Massachusetts events.

A few to highlight:

Quilted Visions: Ann Brauer and Marge Tucker
Now-November 8, 2026
Art Complex Museum, 189 Alden Street, Duxbury, MA

Friendship in Every Stitch: Thimble and Friends Quilt Show
October 24, 2026
Whitman United Methodist Church, 503 South Street, Whitman, MA

6th Annual Fiber Art Exhibit
November 3-December 31, 2026
Morse Institute Library, 14 East Central St, Natick, MA

What's Happening at the New England Quilt Museum

New England Quilt Museum



Visit the New England Quilt Museum at 18 Shattuck Street, Lowell. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am - 4 pm.

As part of our guild membership, we have eight free passes annually. Just show your CTQ membership card and license/ID at the Museum admissions desk.

On view through December 31, 2026

Applique Masters: Bobbi Korengold and Friends

Precision Paper Piecing: Traditional Techniques, Contemporary Quilts
Linzee Kull McCray, Guest Curator

The Age of Blossoms: *Silk Origami Flowers by Nikki Hu*

Hexagon Quilts

Selections from the Permanent Collection

Looking Forward to 2027

NEQM is closed for winter maintenance from January 1-11, 2027.

AI: Artistic Interpretations
A Collaboration between Louisiana State University Museum of Art and Studio Art Quilt Associates will be on view January 12-May 1, 2027.

A Look Back at the 2026 Marshfield Fair

Congratulations to the Crosstown members who won ribbons at the fair:

Lynn Anastos (2), Sheila Berry (2), Laurie Gozzo (2), Edith Neil (2), Ann Reilly (2), and Denine Surette.

The Quilts of Valor Ceremony

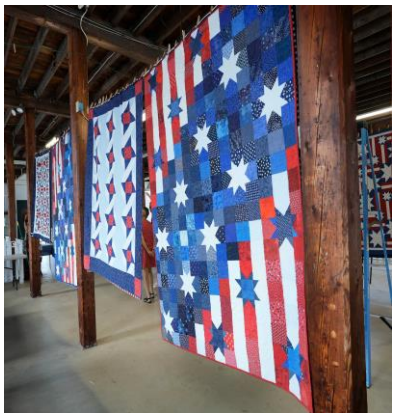


Photo from the Patriot Ledger
showing quilts on display at the Marshfield Fair

Excerpts from thank you letter from Janet Scribner, Vice President, Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society

I am writing to express our profound appreciation for your organization's generous donation of time, materials, and exceptional craftsmanship in creating the beautiful Quilts of Valor presented at this year's fair.

… The meticulous handiwork and artistry stitched into the fabric of each quilt served as a deeply moving tribute to our local veterans. It is through the selfless dedication of talented groups like yours that we are able to provide such a meaningful and lasting token of gratitude to those who have served our nation.

… Your community spirit and remarkable generosity have made a lasting impression on the Society, our fairgoers, and most importantly, the veterans who received your beautiful creations.

Excerpts from more thank you letters

from Laurel DeCastro and Pam White, Supervisors of Quilting for the Marshfield Fair

Thank you is not enough to express the gratitude we have for all of the many hands that made the Quilts of Valor for 19 deserving veterans. …

Nineteen deserving veterans were presented with quilts to represent the 'hug' one receives when they come 'home'.

The Patriot Ledger wrote an article about the event. (You can also) watch a video of the presentation.

… When we finally met the veterans themselves on the day of the presentation, the sense of gratitude and outpouring of thanks was incredible. This event could not have taken place without the contributions that you and your guild provided. Thank you.

… I will conclude with a couple of letters of thanks that we received after the event.

Pam,
(I) just wanted to say thank you for the awesome quilt and for the whole ceremony. It was a beautiful display of people caring for people. Your organization is unique and impacts so many people in the right ways. Thank you for your dedication, Joe

Pam,
I want to thank you and your team who put this together. … A big shout out to your whole team of quilters. Such beautiful and timeless work!!!!!

It will be cherished. My husband was one of 18 veterans who received a quilt. Thank you so very much. Jane, wife of Army Veteran

Dear Pam,
… When I returned home from Viet Nam some 60 years ago, America was a country in great distress and divide. Even within my extended family I was looked on with scorn for having

voluntarily participated in the awful war. Some people close to me and thought to be my friends were glad I had been wounded and were outwardly disappointed I survived. …

Your organization's presentation was the final missing piece in my coming home. I am forever grateful and thankful to you for this honor. Your group's dedication and workmanship is truly amazing. Again, thank you so very much. Gerald

November is Native American Heritage Month



Photo Credit: NMAI

Celebrating Quilting in Native American Cultures

Quilting in Native American communities is more than simply craft; it is a testament to resilience, adaptation, and cultural continuity.

Long before the founding of the United States, many Native cultures used buffalo hides not only for clothing and shelter, but also for ceremony and storytelling. However, in the wake of Western expansion in the late 1800s, bison and buffalo hides grew scarce as herds were hunted nearly to extinction in a campaign to subdue the Plains tribes.

Christian missionary women began teaching quilting techniques to Native women as a form of assimilation during forced relocations of Native communities. Despite its forced origin, quilts became a way to maintain traditions of gift-giving and bestowing honor on individuals in Native communities. Today, quilting remains a vibrant tradition in Native communities, bridging generations.

Source: NMAI website

The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian is Sponsoring a Quilt Along

The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian is offering a Quilt Along. Visit Quilt Along | National Museum of the American Indian for more information and to download each of the five Native American designers' patterns along with instructions and a statement from the artist about how the time period influenced their design.

Submit a photo of your finished product by December 31 to request a limited-edition NMAI Quilt Along label. All of the patterns have been released and there is no need to register unless you will want to receive a label.

10 Reasons Why Fall Is a Quilter's Favorite Season



Photo from Quilting Daily

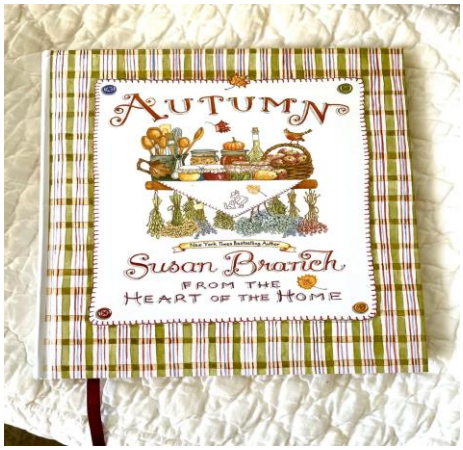
Check out this article from Quilting Daily for full details.

1. The weather is finally quilt-friendly
2. Nature provides the best color palette
3. Cozy days call for cozy projects
4. Create a UFO-finishing routine
5. It's the season of new beginnings
6. Quilt shops are bursting with inspiration
7. Holiday sewing is just around the corner
8. Quilt friends are back together
9. The sewing room becomes the coziest room in the house
10. Fall reminds us to slow down

*Bonus reason: It's simply quilting season!

A Fall Recipe to Share

Susan Branch's Corn Pudding



Served as a holiday dinner side dish (including Thanksgiving), it is always a hit. It also works for brunch or as a potluck dish as well.

Ingredients:

1 cup sour cream
1 14 oz. can corn, drained
1 14 oz can creamed corn
½ cup butter, melted
1 egg, beaten
1 box Jiffy corn muffin mix
¼ tsp cayenne
¼ tsp paprika
(optional - heated maple syrup)

Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together the first ingredients and pour into a buttered 9" square baking dish. Sprinkle top with paprika. Bake 1 hour, Serve with heated maple syrup, if desired.

Source: https://susanbranch.com/corn-pudding

Thanksgiving Trivia

Who is known as the "Mother of Thanksgiving?"

Hint: She is the author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Most of the credit for the establishment of Thanksgiving as an annual national holiday goes to Sarah Josepha Hale.

Although the concept of “a day of thanks” had been celebrated often since Revolutionary War times, it was this New Hampshire born author and the editor of Ladies Magazine and Godey’s Lady’s Book who printed articles and petitioned presidents and other politicians for more than three decades to declare Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

Finally, in 1863, she was successful when President Lincoln proclaimed that a “National Day of Thanksgiving and Praise” would be celebrated yearly on the last Thursday in November. The letter Hale wrote to Lincoln is credited as the main factor in his decision.

Source: National Women’s History Museum

Happy Fall Quilting and Happy Thanksgiving!



Photo credit: Pinterest

If you would like anything featured in a future newsletter, please send it to Annmarie O’Neill at amoneill@comcast.net.

If you do not receive a reply, check to be sure you typed the email address correctly.

Look for the winter edition in January 2027.

bmg