

On Point!

Published by
Northern Star Quilters' Guild
P.O. Box 232
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www.northernstarquilters.com

Meetings

The Guild meets the third Tuesday of each month (Sept to June) at 7pm at Kennedy Catholic 54 NY-138,

Upcoming

April	
Wed 6	Comfort Quilts
Sat 9	Landscape SIG will meet at 1pm at the Astoria Bank in Somers. Long Arm SIG will meet at Karen Carlson's home.
Tue 12	Board Meeting; Quilt Show Meeting
Tue 18	Guild Meeting: Karen Combs
Tue 18	Art Quilters SIG will meet at 5:45 in the Teacher's Lounge. Domestic Machine SIG will meet at 5:45pm in the back of the cafeteria.
Wed 19	"Quilts of Illusion" workshop with Karen Combs
Wed 20	Comfort Quilts
Sat 23	Quilt Drop Off
Wed 27	Quilt Judging

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's message this month will be a tribute to Sr. Barbara that I read at the March meeting. A number of members suggested it be in the newsletter for absentees to read and for members to keep if they wish to.

Sr. Barbara and the Guild

The recent tragic accident to Sr. Barbara Heil on March 4th leads me to outline a brief history of her relationship with the Guild. I realize there are some of you who probably don't even know who she was and why she seems so important to us. She was a very modest person who chose to remain in the background rather than seek credit for all the great advice and help she gave to others. We have benefitted enormously from this over 35 years of working with her. She was 80 when she died and still teaching 2 classes a week and doing administrative work for KC. Along with that she made beautiful doll clothes, mostly for American Girl dolls, which brought high prices at school fundraisers, and she made many of the costumes for student productions including "Cinderella" which was performed the weekend of her death. She did a little quilting.

Way back in 1979 two energetic ladies named Beryl Lawson and Kay Thorn decided to put on a Quilt Show as a fundraiser for American Field Service. It was a success so they repeated it the following year. The popularity of the shows lead them to form a Quilt Guild in the summer of 1981. As founding members Beryl and Kay are lifetime members of NSQG, as are several others who were in on the planning. (Eventually we made Sr. Barbara a lifetime member also.) The first two Shows were held at the Somers Intermediate School (SIS), as were the early Guild meetings. By the third show more space was needed. Sr. Barbara, who was Principal of JFK at the time, was approached about using JFK for this purpose. Permission was granted and that's where the Show remained through last year. Every year she gave time and effort to assure the success of the show, quietly, in the background, without praise. She allocated space and saw that "her kids" moved all the classroom desks out of the way. If weather was nice she had phys. ed. classes moved outside so we could get into the gym earlier on Friday to set up. In recent years she rounded up an army of students to help with the equipment hauling and frame assembly. Some were paid by the Guild or the vendors but others were given credit for service hours which they needed to graduate. Sr. Barbara worked it all out and we just did what she said, very grateful for the help.

In 1992 the Guild and SIS had a conflict with a meeting night. Sr. Barbara was asked for permission to hold our September meeting in the cafeteria at JFK. Permission granted. The following September the same conflict, the same result. The Show grew, as did the Guild, and by 1993 membership was 272 and still growing.....more meeting space was needed. In January, 1994, all meetings were moved to JFK with permission granted to use the cafeteria and the auditorium. Sr. Barbara saw to it that we had everything we needed including a student to run

Communications

Area Shows & Events

And Still We Rise: Race, Culture, and Visual Conversations - Now through April 24th, 2016, Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT - Four centuries of African American history in quilts. Our November speaker, Valarie Poiter is featured. For more info please visit the Bruce Museum website https://brucemuseum.org/site/exhibitions_detail/and-still-we-rise-race-culture-and-visual-conversations

Sharing the Quilts XXXIII - April 2nd - 8am to 4:30pm, Scotch Plains, NJ. Admission is \$7. For more info, go to Harvest Quilters website by clicking [here](#).

"Chinese Textiles: Ten Centuries of Masterpieces from the Met Collection" - through June 19, 2016, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; <http://www.metmuseum.org>.

"American Quilts and Folk Art" - through August 7, 2016, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; <http://www.metmuseum.org>.

"New Discoveries: Early Liturgical Textiles from Egypt, 200-400" - The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Please let us know if you have been (or will be) featured in a show, publication, mentioned in an article, etc. Please send a photo (if available) and any pertinent details to News@Northernstarquilters.com.

the A/V equipment for lectures. Every time we needed space for something Sr. Barbara made it work. She was the one who got us on the school calendar every year for both Shows and meetings. Show committee meetings and Board meetings were moved to JFK teacher's lounge instead of in member homes. SIGs were initiated and we were allowed to spread out into teacher's lounge, library and cafeteria spaces prior to meetings. Super Saturday was moved to JFK from a Katonah church where it had been for several years. For every meeting and event Sr. Barbara showed up to make sure everything was going well. She was "the keeper of the keys" and frequently was the one to unlock the doors. She was our emergency number. She was our problem solver. Sometimes she couldn't be totally direct in the solution and many of us remember and laugh over some sage advice we received from her: With her sly smile she said, "sometimes it is better to ask for forgiveness after than for permission before."

In 1998 our membership reached 353. That may have been our peak. As things changed with the Guild they also did for the school. A few years ago John F. Kennedy High School became Kennedy Catholic. As Sr. Barbara grew older she was relieved of some of her duties.....no longer Principal, and a reduced teaching load. But she still had administrative duties and kept everything going for the Guild, until it came to something she couldn't fix.....the "bottom line" problem a couple years ago that meant the Show had to find a new venue, which, as it turns out is much to our advantage.

In recent months Sr. Barbara was suffering with some hip and back problems that made walking difficult and painful. Prognosis was that she probably faced hip replacement soon. Yet, on Super Saturday this year, with her walker, she made her way to the school from the convent to be sure we had everything we needed. Several of us had not seen her lately and enjoyed a warm conversation with our dear friend. She joked with us and smiled her lovely smile. Don Gough drove her back to the convent to save her the uphill walk. Who knew that would be our last conversation? The following Friday she was killed in a head-on collision on Route 6.

I believe it is the Guild's duty and privilege to honor Sr. Barbara in meaningful ways. She held a unique position in the growth and existence of NSQG and our Quilt Show.

At the meeting I reported that the Show Committee and the Board have agreed to dedicate a page in the show catalog and provide a memorial Exhibit at the Show this year. We have taken member suggestions under advisement and discussed them. There will be a monetary donation from the Guild but the amount and the charity have not been designated. For one thing, we are waiting to see if Kennedy will be setting up some significant memorial that we would like to contribute to. I explained that the Guild is limited to some degree by our own Monetary Policies. It was obvious by the "show of hands" that most members wish to make personal donations, in the amount they choose, to add to the impact of the Guild's gift when that is made. Checks would be made out to the specific charity but all would be donated together as a single gift to the chosen charity.

Your Board will continue to work toward a decision on this and we will keep you informed.

Joyce Sullivan, President
president@Northernstarquilters.com

Our Advertisers



Education

The Machine Quilting SIG are attempting a challenge of free motion quilting for the next two months. Helen Boland will send out an email with the details for those who were not able to attend the meeting.

Helen will be stepping down from being moderator of the group next year so please let Helen or Jennifer Kramer know if you can take over the position. Any questions, please contact Helen Boland.

Jennifer Kramer, VP Education
education@Northernstarquilters.com

Programs

I received lots of nice comments from those members who were able to take the Deborah Tirico workshop. Evidently, it was quite a success. On that note, we still have room in the Karen Combs workshop. Her Quilts of Illusion are quite wonderful and I'm sure the class will be lots of fun." Please go to our website for more details.

Judy Gignesi, VP Programs
programs@Northernstarquilters.com

Quilt Show

It's Show Time! There are only a few weeks to go. Our new venue at the O'Neill Center is going to make the Show fantastic. I hope you are inviting all of your friends and relatives to our new location in Danbury. Make sure you tell them that it is at the Westside Campus of Western Connecticut State University (not the downtown campus). There is a map on our website that you can click on to get directions. Please go to "Directions to Show" under Quilt Show, Visit the Show menu.

There are several ways you can help advertise our Show. There will be Show posters and postcards available at the admissions table at the April Guild meeting. Also, we sent everyone a Show invitation email that you can forward to your family and friends. We have found personal invitations from our members are on the best ways to bring in attendees.

Volunteers and Free Show Entry

If you have not yet volunteered for a job at the Quilt Show, it's not too late to sign up! A minimum of two volunteer hours is expected of all members and is required in order to obtain one day of free admission (if you work four or more hours, you will get free entry to both Show days). This year we will be distributing vouchers that you will turn in at the O'Neill Center box office for your complimentary ticket. More details on how this system will work will be sent to you in a future email. As is our tradition, NSQG members will be allowed to enter the show at 9am on Saturday to get an early peak at the quilts or do some shopping.



Quilt Preparation and Drop Off

Quilt Drop Off day is Saturday, April 23 from 1 pm until 4 pm at the Kennedy Catholic High School Cafeteria. Information on your registration with your quilt numbers will be mailed within two weeks. Please make sure your quilt is properly prepared for display. Don't forget your sleeve must be sewn on the quilt. Also you need to sew your quilt number on the back of your quilt in the bottom right hand corner (as you are looking at the back of the quilt). Please refer to the "Registration Rules and Instructions" and the "Quilt Drop-off and Pick-up" pages under the Quilt Show menu "Show Your Quilt" on our website for complete instructions.

I'll see everyone April 30 and May 1 - enjoy the Show!

Susan Fasnacht, VP Quilt Show
quiltshow@Northernstarquilters.com

Charitable Activities

Comfort Quilts

Be sure to stop by the Comfort Quilt Display at our Quilt Show and enjoy examples of the variety of colorful designs and exquisite quilting done by many Guild Members on the Comfort Quilts which are distributed to those in need. Thanks to all who made quilts, quilted quilts or donated fabric to make these outstanding quilts.



Thanks also to all those who returned their raffle stubs and money to support this year's charity Ann's Place. You can still turn in your money and tickets at the April Guild Meeting or at the Quilt Show. The drawing will take place at the May Guild Meeting.

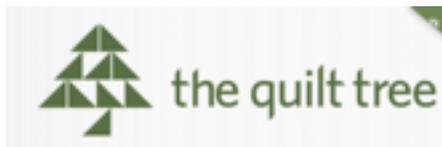
Quilt Coordinator

We are currently looking for a 2018 Raffle Quilt Coordinator. If you or a group of friends are interested in overseeing the construction of the raffle quilt for the 2018 charity, please contact Althea Nolan for details. Past experience has shown that getting the design approved by the Board and then using the summer months to get started on the design and the procedure works well.

Comfort Quilts

Do you have an unfinished Comfort Quilt at home. There is no deadline and sooner or later when you get to it someone will be cheered by your quilt. If you don't have a Comfort Quilt Kit, come and get one at the Guild Meetings.

Althea Nolan, VP Charitable Activities
charitable@Northernstarquilters.com



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Annual Meeting - Election of Board Members

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the Slate of Officers for 2016-2017. The nominees will be introduced at the April Guild Meeting and voting will take place at the May Meeting.

NSQG 2016-2017 Ballot

President - Susan Fasnacht

Treasurer - Carla Wdowski

VP Membership - Jennifer Kramer

VP Quilt Show - Noreen Lippolis and Chris Roche (co VPs)

VP Education - Donna Chambers

Returning for a 2nd year in their current positions:

Secretary -Rosemary DePaola

VP Communications - Maria Catalano

VP Programs - Judy Gignesi

My thanks to the nominating committee, Karen Carlson, Jennifer Kramer, Noreen Lippolis and Joyce Sullivan for giving the Guild a wonderful slate of candidates. And I also thank the candidates for agreeing to share their talents with the Guild.

Barbara Sferra, Chairman