

**Co-President: Margaret Cibulsky**



For most of my adult life, I lived happily on Long Island where I taught Kindergarten and First Grade for 32 years, where my husband worked for SUNY and where we raised two sons. Three years ago, I moved from Long Island to Stamford, Connecticut and a few months later I joined NSQG, and participate in both Comfort Quilts and the Improvisational SIG. I came to quilting 15 years ago, filled with grief after my husband passed, but I was able to sort out my life by working with my hands, mind, and heart. A few years later, 2010, the NYC Metro Modern Quilt Guild formed, and I have been an active member ever since. That is where I fell in love with improvisational and scrap quilts. Hoping our year ahead is filled with positive energy, good health, and lots of time to quilt.

**Co-President: Jody Sullivan**



I am married to my high school sweetheart Jim for 53 years. We raised our three children in our 150-year-old house which we were constantly renovating ourselves and when it was finally “finished” after about 30 years, I found time to buy a sewing machine and discovered quilting. I started by taking several classes at The Country Quilter and was hooked! I have now joined the fabric hoarders’ society and spend much of my free time (particularly this past year) making quilts. I joined NSQG few years ago and discovered an amazing group of fellow quilters and look forward to joining in their future.

**Secretary: Francine Jacobson**



I took my first quilting class at The Niddy Noddy in Croton on Hudson in 1980 and I haven't stopped since! I have a large family and mostly make quilts for weddings and babies. I worked for 30 years as an educator in Ossining and since my retirement I am able to dedicate much more time to quilting. Since joining the guild a few years ago, I have begun to explore many new avenues in the world of quilting and appreciate the opportunity to give back!

**Treasurer: Amanda Curley**



When growing up, my grandmother always had a basket by her chair filled with quilt piecing. Once she had a top pieced together, she would take it to Effie, an elderly country woman, who lived down a backwoods road with her flock of chickens. Effie would finish the quilt by hand. One of these quilts was my wedding gift. I've been using Grandma's Bear Claw Bed Quilt since 1972.

It has taken many years of travel, raising a family, and a career before the gift of retirement returned me to the world of quilting. When I joined NSQG in 2015, doors opened that I had long forgotten and missed. The world of quilting I knew as a child has changed. I am fascinated with everything I am learning through the guild and captivated with the quilts made and shared while enjoying the friendship of so many quilters. I look forward to giving back as the guild's treasurer.

## **Vice President - Communications: Anne MacDonald**



I began quilting in 2014, and it was love at first stitch. My mother had been a hand quilter in the 70's and I learned how to machine piece from my sister-in-law after admiring all her creations. Quilting is a welcome change from using my brain at work, and I especially like the tactile and repetitive nature of the activities - cut, sew, press, cut, sew, press!

I joined the guild in 2015 and enjoy being with others that are interested in all things fabric and creative. My favorite day all year is Super Saturday and I have found that smaller group activity to be a good way to get to know other members. Although we have had some great remote experiences, I am looking forward to being able to have in-person activities again! I joined the board first as the Charitable Activities Chair, and then as Assistant to the Presidents and have really enjoyed the experience.

## **Vice President - Membership: Carol Sterk**



I was a college junior when I discovered some unfinished Dresden plates in my grandmother's closet. It was an "aha" moment for me, and I decided to learn to quilt once I finished my education. I took my first quilting class in 1976 at Riverside Church in Manhattan where I learned to cut pattern templates out of cardboard. I persevered despite many setbacks until, several months after we moved to Westchester, my husband discovered an article in the newspaper about a quilt show at JFK High School in Somers. It was a revelation! I bought my first quilting book, attended a tutorial given by Claire Oehler, a founding member of NSQG, and put my name on a sign-up list to be notified about the first meeting of a new quilt guild that was being formed. I have been a member of the guild ever since. I am incredibly grateful for the friends I have made, the educational opportunities that have helped me grow as a quilter and for the show that has challenged me to be the best I can be. I have served in several board positions over the years including Hospitality, Membership, Education, Assistant to the President and Quilt Show (co-chair) and am excited about returning to Membership, a role that will allow me to take an active part in board's commitment to keep the guild vibrant. My special passion is making complicated pieced quilts out of as many "scraps" as possible from my extensive stash.

## **Vice President - Programs: Kathy Tuttle**



I am a retired educator who took up Quilting when I was waiting for my second grandchild to be born. A good friend of mine told me I had to make a giraffe/measurement chart for the nursery, and she would help me. Having been a sewer for most of my life I thought it was a great idea. That was five years ago. While the project was way over my head in reality, I fell in love with quilting. I am a self-taught quilter with a few classes here and there. I was delighted to join the guild last year, excited to meet wonderful people and learn from experienced quilters. Since joining the guild, I have realized through the many wonderful programs and workshop that my love lies with art quilting. I am a life-long learner and I look forward to in person meetings and workshops as the world opens its doors again in the not too distant future.

## **Vice President - Quilt Show: Lisa Alfonzetti**



I graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1985 and began a job at a public relations firm in NYC. It did not take me long to realize I was not on the right path. The next step on the journey for me was purchasing a local fabric store that was for sale in 1987. My fiancé and I took money we were saving for a house down payment and purchased the shop instead, and there has been no looking back. We purchased the shop and got married all within the same month. The shop had primarily a garment sewing focus, but we quickly added quilting cottons into the mix and, needless to say, quilting took over.

In my 34 years of shop ownership, I have strived to provide an environment that provides great products and experiences for our customers. In recent years, my business has expanded to include sub-dealerships, working with other shops in the area to provide sewing machine expertise and service. Working together has benefitted not just us but our customers as well. Our primary goal every day is a great customer experience.

While running my shop, I also raised 3 kids during this time, who are now 26, 29 and 31 years old. And I am, with great excitement, expecting my first grandchild in July. I served in many fundraising and event planning leadership roles during their school years – fundraisers for sports teams, the PTA, and most significantly, a Teen Safe Driving Program. I feel my experience from these events will be my best preparation for running a successful Quilt Show. Organization and a great team are the keys to success.

I am a new member of the guild, although I have been involved for many years. Our participation as a vendor has included the donation of a BERNINA Sewing Machine for each show that we have been a vendor at. I have always been appreciative of all the volunteers that make the guild, and the annual show, a success, and I feel like it is time for me to give back.

## **Other Board Positions (appointed, not part of election)**

### **Charitable Activities Chair: Dee Plouffe**



I have been a sewer since 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Home Economics class, from clothing to crafts to quilting in 2003. I have dabbled in all aspects of quilting and have found my “Voice” in Modern and Improv quilting. I am a Hairdresser by trade and a Quilter at heart. I was introduced to the Guild in 2009 and actively joined Comfort Quilts. Comfort Quilts is my favorite guild activity; it promotes friendship, learning and a rewarding sense of helping others. In the past I served on the Board for three years as the Librarian and am looking forward to another year as Chairperson of Charitable Activities.

### **Librarian: Deborah Tashjian**



Although my Mom and both my grandmothers were accomplished in knitting and embroidery, quilting was not in our cultural deck. I casually wandered into quilting inspired by the gift of a Jonathan Holstein book. I did nothing formally: copied designs by making newspaper or cardboard patterns and made my quilts and pillows by hand since I did not own (or know how to use) a sewing machine. I took my first quilting class about 25 years ago as a satisfying antidote to the long dark New Hampshire winters. It was on making a Baltimore album quilt, which I continued at the Country Quilter when I moved to Westchester (sadly, still not finished.) When I eventually bought a house, quilting took a back seat while I spent about 20 years creating a garden and growing into my job. About 3 years ago, garden established and retirement looming, I realized how much I missed working with color, design, and beautiful fabric. I joined NSQG as a first step: I had no fabric, no rotary cutter, no machine. My first meeting was an Ugly Fabric Auction. I was fascinated by the fervor of the bidding wars and the bags of material members happily petted and shared with friends. Now I understand and am so happy to have found my “tribe.”

I love books. In my working life I was an elementary school reading specialist and reading/writing teacher. So being Guild librarian is a good fit. We have an impressive little library and I look forward to the day when I can roll out the carts again for you all.

### Hospitality Co-Chair: Kathy Keane



Nancy Picco and I run the snacks table at the meetings and organize the lunch for Super Saturday. My quilting journey began years ago when my neighbor who was an avid quilter asked a group of us if we would like to learn how to hand quilt. She taught us how to quilt and to appliqué. My first and only project was a twin-size Holly Hobbie quilt which I finished for my oldest daughter. After my fourth child was born, my quilting days were put on hold. Years later, I took an adult ed course in machine quilting and got hooked. My friend Nancy and I took a few courses at local quilt shops. Nancy joined the Guild in 2011 and convinced me to join in 2012. I have really enjoyed making new friends and improving my skills.

### Hospitality Co-Chair: Nancy Picco



My earliest memory of playing with fabric was to create doll clothes for my Ginny Dolls with a child's hand cranking Singer sewer. Shortly after the Bicentennial resurgence in quilting, Kathy Keane and I took an adult ed class. It was the real thing: using sandpaper backed cardboard templates and scissors (no rotary cutters!) we learned how to hand piece and quilt. The finished product was a 9-patch, 4½" pincushion! Raising children and working full time as an English teacher left little time to play with fabric, but I did manage to take some great classes at the Quilt Shop in Somers (thank you, Nancy Mirman!) When I retired in 2011, I joined NSQG. I loved our trips to Lancaster, the games on the bus and the sleepovers. (It was better than high school because there were no cliques, and everyone was so friendly!) Comfort Quilts has given me another wonderful opportunity to grow as a quilter and to make friends with so many of our members. Helping with quilt judging and the quilt show, as well as the fabric auction have been more opportunities to have fun with the guild. When Kathy and I went to the Kennedy Holiday Auction we were happy to see several guild members' quilts as auction items. Looking forward to more wonderful occasions to be together with quilting friends.

### **Co-Activities Liaison: April Russell**

April is long time guild member and has been our Quilt Challenge Coordinator for the past few years. She will be continuing as Activities Liaison.

### **Co-Activities Liaison: Narcita Medina**



I joined Northern Star Quilters Guild in 2017, upon retiring from the White Plains School District as an assistant principal. Prior, in New York City, I was a reading specialist and English teacher at the secondary level. I have two sons who, with their amazing daughter in laws, gave me five grandchildren. I reside in Cortlandt Manor but consider myself a Bronx girl. Joining the guild fulfilled a desire to be a quilter. Quilting fulfills my artistic sensibilities while posing creative challenges. In my short time at the Guild, I have actively participated in all aspects of Guild life: attending meetings, enjoying two Lancaster road trips, participating in Guild workshops, volunteering at our Quilt Show and at the Guild library. I look forward to joining April as Activities Liaison co-chair.

### **Assistant to the President: TBD**

### **Co-Ex-Officio: Anne Chehebar**



I started sewing as a young girl, making my own dresses, and worked on my first quilt – an English paper-pieced hexagonal quilt – when I was about 14. When I came to the United States from the UK in 1974, I renewed my interest in quilting, sewing small projects mainly as gifts for family and friends. Julie Long encouraged me to join the Guild in 2015 and two years later, when I retired, I joined Comfort Quilts and found my quilting home, enjoying both the camaraderie and the opportunity to learn from experienced quilters. I became Secretary of Guild that year. I have learned so much from Guild members who have so willingly shared their knowledge, expertise and encouragement at Board and Guild Meetings, Comfort Quilts, in the SIGs and Super Saturdays -- that being a member of the Guild has been one of the happiest parts of my retirement.

**Co-Ex-Officio: Karen Carlson**



I began sewing at about 8 years old making Barbie doll clothes, a lot of my clothes during high school and college, then on to home dec and kid stuff. I started quilting and got involved with NSQG via Comfort Quilts about 20 years ago. Comfort Quilts is still my favorite Guild activity although I have also overseen making raffle quilts and Super Saturday, gone on quilt trips, and taken workshops, and volunteered at guild meetings and the quilt show. The world of quilting and now the past two year as Co-President have been an unexpected gift and I encourage all of you to participate as much as you can.