



# Northern Star Quilters Guild, Ltd.

P.O. Box 232 Somers N.Y. 10589

JOAN JOHNSON, EDITOR

DECEMBER, 1984



SEASON'S

GREETINGS

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK,

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire board, I would like to wish you all a happy holiday and a bright new year. May this time of great joy and peace fill your hearts with its richness and overflow its warmth to all those around you.

This time of year gets very hectic but don't forget upcoming events. Linda's December program sounds exciting and promises a good time for all. So for all who are participating, get your gifts wrapped and those cookies baked. We are all looking forward to an evening of fun and good friends together during the holiday season.

Check your newsletter for upcoming workshops in the months ahead. We are repeating the programs we had last year since it was enjoyed so much. These are especially good workshops to attend if you want to only work on one small project at a time, or learn a new technique or perfect an old one. We have many new members and this is a great opportunity to get involved in quilting and making new friends.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to all who toiled on the boutique. What a success YOU made of it. We can be so proud of our work, our organization and our hard working dedicated members. All I heard was praise for the quality of work and the attractiveness of the set-up. We have an ever growing reputation of excellence and it's a direct result of YOUR commitment to making it so. I can't list all your names personally to thank you for your contributions because there are so many to say thanks to! That's what makes this guild so special and so great. The number of members who give to the group is so large.

I do want to personally thank Jean Sparacin for organizing the boutique, Joan Crawford for being our trusty treasurer and Ginny Watson for all her past experience and work. There were many others who came early to set up, some who worked the "rush hours", others who manned the floors, still others who logged in all those sales, and still more who must be very dedicated souls and worked all day! Rather than list names and take the risk of missing someone, I will just say THANK YOU.

Our November program on shadow quilting was very well recieved. Everyone enjoyed the small groups, learning a new technique and the spacious cafeteria to work in. The stage was perfect for our table decorations (which were adorable) and big enough to hold all the displays. The microphone certainly worked well

since I noticed I was blasting some of you out of your seats. A special thanks from all of us should be given to Linda and all her teachers who made the evening a delight and a success. Our membership is truly fortunate to have such talented people who are so willing to give of their time and share their knowledge.

Linda is looking into future meetings at Primrose but there is nothing definite so far. So see you back at Somers Intermediate School in December. Don't forget to bring back those blocks that were assigned to your group at the November meeting. There will be a prize to those of the group who made a block and had the most blocks in a group returned at the December meeting. The blocks just have to be pieced and not quilted. The fabric choice is up to you. The quilt show committee would like to use them for a quilt block display during our May show. You know how everyone loves to look at blocks and in all those different fabrics. So get those needles going gals! December meeting is the deadline.

I was pleased that so many of you wrote your comments concerning November's program on shadow quilting. We need your input to plan programs you want. I am sure Linda has another program similar to Novembers' already in the works for spring. How does stenciling sound ladies? Keep reading your newsletter for future program and workshop announcements.

Once again, have a happy holiday and thank you for all your support and help. I am truly proud to serve you this year. You are a wonderful group.



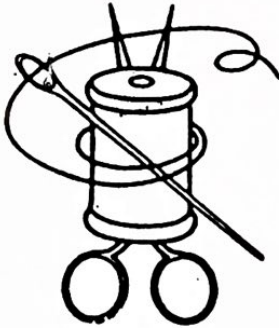
Diane Durr  
President

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

December 18, 1984 meeting of the Northern Star Quilter's Guild will be held at the Somers Intermediate School at 7:30. Don't forget your gift.

SEASONS  
GREETINGS

# THREADNEEDLE HOUSE



81 North Greeley Avenue  
Chappaqua, New York 10514  
238-8633

**IMPORTED & DOMESTIC FABRICS\* PFAFF  
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## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT-PROGRAM

It's holiday time again! This year we've decided to try a Greek Auction. But, before I explain what that is, I'd like to thank all of the Guild members who helped with the Shadow Quilting mini-workshop in November. They are: Pat Bartimoccia, Joan Crawford, Alice Dokken, Clara Hendrick, Linda Higham, Connie Iurato, Jean Jackson, Irene Nappi, Claire Oehler, Vivian Rothermel, Harriett Selva, Sondra Shapiro, Kathy Sica, Jill Tucker, Ginny Watson, Betty Whitley, Pat Wiley, and Mildred Wyszynski.

For those of you who do not know what a Greek Auction is, I'll explain. We will again break into smaller groups as we've done in the past. All gifts will go on the group's table. Each person in the smaller groups will again draw members. Person #1 chooses to unwrap the gift of her choice. Person #2 chooses a gift, then before unwrapping it, decides whether she will keep it, or exchange the unopened gift for the opened gift of #1. Person #3 does the same thing, but now can also choose one of the two unwrapped gifts. The last person has the most choices. Any gift

can change "owners" an unlimited number of times.

It has also been decided that while we do encourage a member to hand make their own fabric gift, purchased items relating to quilting (notions, patterns, fabrics, books, etc.) may also be used as a gift. The guideline for purchased items is \$5.00. So, no excuses that you haven't the time to make something! Come out and help us celebrate the holiday season!

## SHOW BUSINESS

By vote of the NSQG membership at the November meeting the Northern Westchester District Nursing Association will receive the grant money earned from the sale of raffle tickets. The money will be used for the Hospice of Northern Westchester. The NSQG sponsor is Lillian Pallato.

"Hospice is a program of comprehensive services geared to enhance the quality of life of the person who is faced with a life threatening illness and to support the family throughout this period and after. The program's goals are to ensure that the person and the family experience each day fully with a minimum of pain. Emphasis is on relief, not only of physical pain but includes social, spiritual and emotional support as well.

Hospice of Northern Westchester services are provided by a team of health care professionals with broad skills, by clergy, trained volunteers and home health aide/homemakers working in close co-operation with the patient's physician.

NSQG is pleased to share in this program and thank Lillian for writing the grant proposal and acting a sponsor. Lillian will also be responsible for the raffle tickets sold by the DNA and securing DNA volunteers to be present at the raffle ticket during the quilt show.

The raffle tickets just might be ready at the December meeting. Elva Fisher will be in charge of those tickets as well as your money as they are sold and stubs returned. The tickets will be in books of six (they are 6 for \$5. or \$1. each) so this will make it even easier for you to sell...sell...sell! Remember the raffle quilt as well as the 910 Bernina and Cranberry Quilting Hoop on a stand are part of the raffle ticket prizes.

Pat Wiley reports that all the raffle quilt blocks were all picked up or delivered. Grace Sohn is part of Pat's committee and will be in charge of the "No knots of tiny stitches" when the quilt is ready for quilting. Six hundred hours were spent quilting last year so Lis Greene will be ready with her volunteer list soon.

SHOW BUSINESS (con't.)

The flyers and brochures are scheduled to go to press in December and will be ready for distribution in January. The committee will take a very small breather over the holidays and then go into high gear!



Ginny Watson chr.  
World of Quilts VI

OPEN WORKSHOPS IN BASIC QUILTMAKING

JAN - Feb 1985

Start off 1985 with our six weeks of Basic Quilting Workshops. These are classes in basic piecing and quilting with advanced techniques and new ideas for those who are already quilting. If you came last year, you will find expanded ideas in each area for you this year. These workshops are for MEMBERS ONLY. \$5.00 fee for each class - pay when attend. No pre-registration required. Come to one, all or any class. The workshop for the week will be held on two days in two different places. Please note date and place. Be prompt - a teacher will be waiting!

1. Basic 4-patch and 9-patch Squares  
Wed., Jan. 9, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Luthern Church, Rt 117 & 172 Mt. Kisco, NY  
  
Thurs., Jan 10, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.  
White Plains, NY
2. Log Cabin  
Wed., Jan. 16, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Luthern Church, Rt 117 & 172 Mt. Kisco, NY  
  
Thurs., Jan. 17 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.  
White Plains, NY
3. Drunkard's Path - Curved Piecing  
Wed., Jan. 23, 1985 -- 10am -- noon  
Luthern Church, Rt 117 & 172, Mt. Kisco, NY  
  
Thurs., Jan 24, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.  
White Plains, NY
4. Quick Piecing  
Wed., Jan 30, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Luthern Church, Rt 117 & 172, Mt. Kisco, NY

Quick Piecing (con't)

Thurs., Jan 31, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.,  
White Plains, NY

5. Just Quilting

Wed., Feb. 6, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Luthern Church, Rt 117 & 172, Mt. Kisco, NY

Thurs., Feb 7, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.  
White Plains, NY

6. Applique

Wed., Feb. 13, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Luthern Church, Rt 117 & 172, Mt. Kisco, NY

Thurs., Feb. 14, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.  
White Plains, NY

Bring to each workshop: basic sewing supplies, graph paper - 4 square to the inch, fabric for a square - may be scraps - 3 or 4 prints and 1 or 2 solids, approximately 1/4 yd. each.

Teacher will help you plan a "sampler quilt" or other quilt project at each class.

For more information or if weather may cause cancellation call Mt. Kisco - Ginny Watson 666-4257; White Plains - Terry Reilly 428-3468.

## BASKETS BOXES.... THINGS

*The "Grabbits" are in!!*

For Holiday gifts:

Ginger Featherweight Scissors  
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Linen Towels \$3.25 Pineapple,  
Patchwork Sampler, Christmas  
Legacy Designs

Terry Towels \$3.75 Pineapple,  
Christmas Legacy Designs

Assorted Baskets and Boxes

....Don't forget to place your  
order for a lovely handcrafted  
oak or mahogany quilt rack!!  
\$155.00

50 Hillside Ave, Mt. Kisco NY  
914-666-4257



## GRAM'S CLOSET



When I was home for vacation my junior year of college, I went to visit my grandmother. At the age of twenty, I still hadn't lost my fascination with exploring the nooks and crannies of her house. On this particular occasion, I convinced her to let me poke through her bedroom closet. I had found lots of goodies there in the past; my grandfather's World War I navy uniform; some luscious peach satin, nice enough that I would now want to try a Victorian Crazy Quilt. If only I knew what had become of it in the intervening years.

But this time I found a stack of unfinished Dresden Plates which had not yet been appliqued to muslin backgrounds. My Gram had once been a quilter and I had never known. I had spent a lot of time at her house during my childhood but I had never seen her quilt. My mother had only a vague recollection of it from her very early years. So I like to imagine that my grandmother's few precious quilting hours were whiled away after her children had been tucked in and her daily chores were done. Upon my discovery, I started firing questions at her such as: what had become of the finished quilts, why did she stop making them, etc? What she told me was that a local apron factory had sold squares of cotton print fabric for 25¢ a pound (or was it 5¢ a pound). She had given away most of the quilts during the Depression. For some reason, she was reluctant to discuss the details. Following conversations with my mother and great aunt, I have concluded that Gram did most of her quilting in the 1930's and gave it up in the '40's once the hardships of the Depression were over and she returned to work. The fabrics she used were invariably pastel floral prints such as those described in the article on dating quilts in the latest issue of the Quilters' Newsletter Magazine.

Anyway, the discovery of those squares in my grandmother's closet excited me much more than their quality, in objective terms, warranted and my addiction to the art can be dated to this moment in 1973. I made a promise to myself, then and there, that once I had completed my studies, I would learn how to quilt.

Four years passed before, degrees in hand, I got my first "real" job and allowed myself the luxury of taking a course for fun—no grades, no GPA to worry about. The quilting course was part of the Riverside Church Adult

Education Program and was held high in the cathedral tower overlooking the Hudson River, Columbia University and the upper west side of Manhattan. I can't say I learned as much as I would have liked; the course was only 14 weeks and I had chosen a difficult pattern for a beginner; triple sunflower, as illustrated in Marguerite Ickis' book, "The Standard Book of Quilting". Nevertheless, I had made the templates (out of cardboard), chosen fabric, and hand pieced several squares by the time the course ended. Not a bad start. Nearly two years later, piecing finally finished, I batted down the quilt and mounted it on my antique quilting frame. The frame had been purchased for a mere pittance (\$60.00) from a person whose fine woman quilt cooperative was listed in the Manhattan yellow pages. The frame, hand-pegged and wooden ratched-operated had been sitting in her grandmother's barn since it had last been used. She told me the frame had been used to quilt the Hudson Valley Quilt.

Anyway, getting back on the track, I became very agitated when I was unable to quilt a stitch less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. What to do, what to do! I called my old quilting teacher. She must have been more than a little surprised to hear from me. As for me, I was relieved and mortified! I had used commercial comforter batting purchased on the lower East Side which was at least 4" thick. I discovered that there was some hope for me in the quilting department once this quilt had been taken apart, rebatted, rebasted and remounted on its frame.

The biggest miracle is that my husband of less than a year didn't saw the frame in two and free up the space in our small living room when I was in one of my blacker moods over the quilts "progress".

Needless-to-say, I was in great need of contact with others who shared my obsession and could offer some guidance. My husband and I had just moved to Mamaroneck when notice of "World of Quilts I" appeared in the local newspaper. That show was the beginning of Phase II of my quilting life. I discovered Quilters' Newsletter Magazine and attended a lecture by Claire Oehler on adapting patterns for quilting from wallpaper, greeting cards, coloring books, etc. My original notes remain intact, and were invaluable to me when in 1981 I decided to design an "original" crib quilt for the baby I was expecting.

At World of Quilts I, there was a sign-up sheet for those interested in forming a quilters guild. Notice of the first meeting

Gram's Closet (con't.)

of the Northern Star Quilter's Guild arrived in the mail in September, 1981 and I "joined-up" the following January, 1982, two months after the birth of my daughter. Now I am the mother of two daughters, and desperately trying each week to find snippets of time in which to work on my second original baby quilt so that it will be ready for "World of Quilts VI".

The Guild has been a wonderful outlet from my domestic routine over the last 3 years, and participation on the Quilt Show committee both last year and this year has given me the opportunity to make friends and really be a part of things concerned with the Guild. I am a lonely quilter no more.

By the way, my mother recently presented me with a large box of 8 painted star blocks as well as an almost finished double Irish Chain quilt top made by my grandmother. She had discovered them five years after Gram's death when she was going through a cedar chest of her needlework, letters and other memorabilia.

I am thrilled to have them and plan to make 2 twin quilts, one for each of my daughters to have and cherish when she grows older. I hope those quilts will impress upon them their rich heritage.

Carol Sterk

N.S.Q.G. BOARD MEMBERS

Diane Durr	President	265-2774
Linda Horton	VP-Program	77-5976
Pat Davis	VP-Membership	248-7525
Joan Crawford	Treasurer	279-3457
Patty Larkin	Rec. Secretary	997-9180
Cary Lou Canfield	Corr. Sec'y	949-4776
Ginny Watson	Quilt Show	666-4257
Joan Johnson	Newsletter	424-3214
Jean Sparacin	Special Events	941-8422
Teresa Reilly	Resource and Education	428-3468
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10% Discount on all fabrics to Northern Star Quilt Guild members.

The Fabric Shoppe is a complete quality store for all your sewing needs. Our expert sales staff is very knowledgeable in all areas of quilting, fashion sewing, crewel, knitting, etc. Come in today and let us assist you in all your sewing needs.

THE FABRIC SHOPPE

Baldwin Place Shopping Center  
Baldwin Place, N.Y. 10505  
corner of Rt. 6 & 118 (914) 628-8338

LETTERS.....

On behalf of all our blind students, past, present and future may I thank all members of the NSQG for your wonderful donation of \$2,536. The quilt you raffled was beautiful as were your efforts and the check you sent us.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind can only continue our much needed services with the help of our friends. Please do accept our sincere thanks. Your effort, generosity and kindness have helped to better the lives of many blind individuals.

Sincerely yours,  
Martin S Yablonski

submitted by Ginny Watson



MY LEGACY



Being of a sweet and generous nature, it has always been my desire to spare my husband as much trauma as possible. I have, therefore, never consulted with him about the fabric I buy. I feel that he should be grateful that I am a fabricaholic instead of an alcoholic and be willing to indulge my small passion as long as he isn't aware of the actual expenditure represented by my growing horde.

One day recently, however, I was struck by the realization that I COULD DIE, AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO MY FABRIC? My children are old enough to take care of themselves, but my fabric is helpless.

I buy fabric for the sheer pleasure of owning it. It is stashed in every available drawer, on shelves, in boxes, on the end of the cutting table, greatly reducing its use, and under the bed, until we are in danger of having to use a ladder to get onto the mattress.

It rests, carefully folded, labeled, wrapped in clear plastic so that the color and texture are clearly visible. I unwrap a piece occasionally, hold it up to the light, enjoy the hand, visualize how it might look made up, measure it again to ascertain that it has not diminished, then I carefully refold, place it in the plastic and return it to its storage place. I rarely find a pattern worthy of my prizes, so that when I really want to make up something to wear, I have to go out and buy fabric into which I can bear to cut.

The confirmed fabricaholic really doesn't want to make clothes from her treasures, she just enjoys having them. The true connoisseur collects only natural fibers. Synthetics do not tempt the heart of the purist. They are changing so fast that whatever you buy this year will be old hat next year. Not so with natural fibers. Good silks, woolens, cottons, and linens become more rare and costly.

Becoming a grandmother shocked me into admitting that I am not immortal and will eventually leave this vale of needles and pins. I will have to leave my store behind, although I am certain that if the angels saw my fabric they would find a way for me to bring it along to stitch up into Heavenly Robes. I began to feel like a miser with coins stashed in the mattress. Someone would have to be told about it. I waited until my husband was peacefully engaged in his favorite pastime, watering the garden, and broached the subject. . . Author unknown

# BERNINA

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FROM THE EDITOR

Know of any shows coming up; how about a mini description of shows attended, some tidbits of quilting information or how about that new quilt book you just read - this is what your newsletter needs - YOU, your cooperation. Let all the members know what's happening. Feel free to provide any of this information to the editor. Joan Johnson, Snake Hill Rd. Garrison, NY 10524 - 424-3214

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