



# Northern Star Quilters' Guild, Ltd.

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

JOAN JOHNSON - EDITOR

JANUARY, 1985

\*\*\*\*\* HAPPY NEW YEAR \*\*\*\*\*

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK -

Dear Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is the time of the year that we all sit down and think about the direction we are going in. It's just all that enthusiasm over the new year spills over from those around us and compels us to do something. I don't know about you, but I am getting very excited as I look ahead to the coming events--workshops, quilt show, block contest, quilting the raffle quilt, and more.

Our quilt show is only FOUR months away. It is a good time now to start planning your block for the block contest. Carol Seaboldt is in charge and will tell you all the details at our January meeting. This contest is made for each and every one of you, because you make all the choices in color, design, and quilting. You get to do pretty well what you've been wishing to try. You know how you see a contest advertised in a magazine or such and you say, "If only it was a contest with the block I love to make, I'd enter". Well, you can't use that excuse for this one, because you choose any design you want to make. I do hope many of you will participate, and we break a record for the most guild participants in quilt show history. Get those needles moving!

This is also a good time to start finishing that quilt we all have just sitting around calling to us: "Finish me, finish me.". This is our guild's show, and I'd love to see more quilts made by our membership. It is truly great to get a chance to see quilts made by famous and talented quiltmakers from around the country. They are awesome and very inspiring. But the ones I love most are the quilts made by us plain old folks. They are the quilts I might make someday. They are the quilts that carry on the tradition from our past; the tradition of housewives, mothers, daughters

and sisters creating quilts for their loved ones. Many have stories that go with them and become part of the quilt. So let's get busy and finish those future heirlooms.

January is an important month as far as business goes. The executive board and the committee for revising the by-laws will be hard at work drafting the important changes that must be made. As I stated at the December meeting, we have become incorporated and must follow the incorporation guidelines. Our CPA has worked very hard and has given us suggestion to follow. We will be rewording the purpose of the guild as recommended by our CPA. We will also be looking at the present by-laws to see if any additions should be made to insure the smooth running of an organization of this size and scope. The committee which will be working on the revision will be composed of three board members and two members from the general membership. The committee consists so far of Ginny Watson, Joan Crawford, Connie Iurato, and myself. Please give me a call if you would like to make any suggestions for changes in the by-laws, and I will see that they are brought up for discussion. Remember this is your organization, an organization of over 250 members. Your ideas are important, and we want to hear from you.

Please keep checking your newsletter for the latest information on upcoming workshops, quilt show information, and also general meeting information. We again have run into a scheduling conflict at Somers Intermediate School for January 15th. We will be meeting at PRIMROSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL once again at the same time as usual. Pass on this information to other members of friends who are planning to attend. We will not be making phone calls since we have notified members through the newsletter.

See you in January, Diane Durr

President

## \*\*\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTICE\*\*\*\*\*

Our January 15 meeting will be held at the PRIMROSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL and not at the Somers Intermediate School due to scheduling conflict. Time: 7:30 PM.

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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.

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corner of Rt. 6 & 118 (914) 628-8338

## PROGRAM REPORT

I hope you all had very happy holidays. The December Greek auction seemed to be well received, if the screams and giggles were any indication!

Even if your busy fingers have almost recovered from making holiday presents and decorations, don't let them cool off too much! Our January 15th program will be on quick piecing and there has to be a project or two you'll want to try. So, join us on the 15th when Susan Logothetis brings her examples and flannel board to demonstrate "SUPER FAST CUTTING & PIECING". Yours truly may even lay aside her applique and have a go at it. See you then!

Linda Horton

## FROM MEMBERSHIP

As 1984 ends, our membership stands at 257, and still growing. As more and more people hear about our organization, they realize that we are more than just a "hen party", and pretty soon they want to know just what we are all about. I'm quite proud of our organization and it's accomplishments over the last four years. We have been blessed with outstanding leadership and the women within our ranks are among some of the most talented I have ever had the pleasure of working with.

I have seen our Guild grow from a handful of interested quilters who really didn't know just exactly what they wanted to do to a full fledged, reputable organization with specific goals and a long list of successful accomplishments to its credit. And I'm sure we will continue to grow and achieve our goals with unmeasured enthusiasm in the year to come.

Our list of new members is just too long to mention here, so an update of the membership list will be printed soon.

If anyone has a problem with receiving the newsletter, please contact me or Joan Johnson. All membership applications should be sent to me, Pat Davis, Membership Chairman, Rt. 2, Box 106, Granite Springs, NY 10527, 914-248-7525.

Pat Davis

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Dot Mills for taking photos at the boutique and sharing them with us. Check them out on Terri Reilly's bulletin board. Maybe you are one of those tired folks she has captured on film.

All the fine ladies who shared their time and talents at the holiday helper workshop. They made those lovely shoo-fly boxes which were given away as door prizes. They are: Alice Murphy, Pat Barker, Kay Frischmann, Patricia Chalou, Joan Bristol, Anne Morini, Grace Sohn, Lucille Fuher Masters, Barbara Beaudry, Irene Nappi, Doris Richardson, and Ginny Watson.

Diane Durr



SHOW BUSINESS

Progress report for January '85: Elva Fisher will be ready with the raffle tickets at the January meeting. They are in books of six (6 for 50¢ or \$1. each) and you may sign out as many books as you wish. The proceeds go to Hospice of Northern Westchester. Grand prize is the 910 Bernina donated by Stretch 'n Sew in Hartsdale. First prize...Sampler "Raffle" quilt. Second prize... a Cranberry Quilting Hoop-on-a-stand from The Little Quilt House in Woodbury, Conn.

The posters will be ready for distribution as well as the brochures. One of the best places for a poster is a car window! Yes, extra posters and brochures will be available from Nancy Caprari and Miriam Dedyo. Three thousand brochures will be mailed out by Alice Dokken and Maddie Horr's committee the last week in January.

With the after holiday lull at hand, we expect a lot of those pieced display blocks to be returned too. First prize will go to the Churn Dashers but 2nd and 3rd are still open.

Suzanna Valentinetti will have NSQG star patterns, fabric for the stars and sample aprons on hand. The aprons were a big success last year and each volunteer is asked to wear one while on duty.

Lis Green will start her volunteer charts with mailing volunteers and raffle quilt quilters. These work sessions are always fun and a great way to meet you fellow quilt members.

Carol Seaboldt announced final details for the Quilt Block Contest: Any pattern, any color for your quilted block with finished edge. No longer than 18" and no less than 10" on a side. 100% cotton fabric, please. There will be cash awards given for this first time contest!

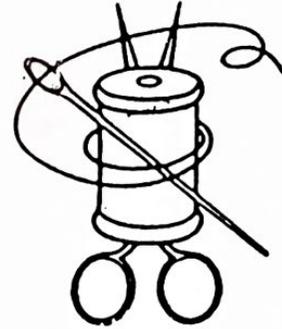
And don't forget to call Millie Wysznski, (277-4470) who is looking for the best of your quilted and had crafted Christmas decorations.

Don't forget the SHOW is May 4 & 5 !!!

Ginny Watson



## THREADNEEDLE HOUSE



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### "HOW OLD IS THE THIMBLE?"

A thimble was used as early as 79A.D. Examples have been found in the ruins near Pompeii.

Many unusual types of thimbles have been made through the years. Advertising thimbles of inexpensive metal or plastic were used in all parts of the country. Carved oak thimbles were made in Ireland. Open ended steel thimbles were preferred by sailors. Penny brass thimbles were the most popular during the early 20th century.

Nineteenth century tortoise shell thimbles with inlaid gold and silver designs were made to match sewing workboxes. Some sewing boxes had sandalwood thimbles to keep the moths out of the fabric in the sewing box. Other 19th century thimbles were made of mother-of-pearl, bone, ivory, procelain, gold or silver.

Submitted by Dot Mills



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!

Thanks to all of you who signed up for the workshops at the December meeting. We'll be expecting you! Everyone else who is coming, please call Alice, Ginny or Terri to let us know even if you decide at 8 AM to come at 10AM. The more the merrier. Please note that there are 2 workshops on Wednesday - 10AM to Noon at Alice Dokken in Katonah and 7:30PM to 9:30PM at Ginny Watson in Mt. Kisco. Call for directions. Thursday 10am - noon in White Plains at the Memorial Methodist Church. Call Terri Reilly - 428-3468.

1. Basic 4-patch and 9-patch Squares

Wed., Jan 9, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Alice Dokken, 9 Orchard Lane, Katonah  
232-4279  
7:30pm - 9:30pm -- Ginny Watson, 50  
Hillside Ave., Mt. Kisco, 666-4257

Thurs., Jan 10, 1985 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.,  
White Plains, NY - Terri Reilly 428-3468

2. Log Cabin

Wed., Jan. 16 -- 10am - noon  
Alice Dokken, 9 Orchard Lane, Katonah  
232-4279  
7:30pm - 9:30pm -- Ginny Watson, 50  
Hillside ave., Mt. Kisco, 666-4257

Thurs., Jan 17 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.,  
White Plains, NY - Terri Reilly 428-3468

3. Drunkard's Path - Curved Piecing

Wed., Jan 23 -- 10am - noon  
Alice Dokken, 9 Orchard Lane, Katonah  
232-4279  
7:30pm - 9:30pm -- Ginny Watson, 50  
Hillside Ave., Mt. Kisco, 666-4257

Thurs., Jan 24 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave.  
White Plains, NY - Terri Reilly 428-3468

4. Quick Piecing

Wed., Jan 30 -- 10am - noon  
Alice Dokken, 9 Orchard Lane, Katonah  
232-4279  
7:30pm-9:30pm--Ginny Watson, 50 Hillside  
ave., Mt. Kisco, 666-4257

Thurs., 10am - noon Jan.31  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Av  
White Plains, NY - Terri Reilly 428-3468

5. Just Quilting

Wed., Feb 6, -- 10am - noon  
Alice Dokken, 9 Orchard Lane, Katonah  
232-4279  
7:30pm-9:30pm--Ginny Watson, 50 Hillside  
Ave., Mt. Kisco, 666-4257

Thurs., Feb 7 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Av  
White Plains, NY - Terri Reilly, 428-3468

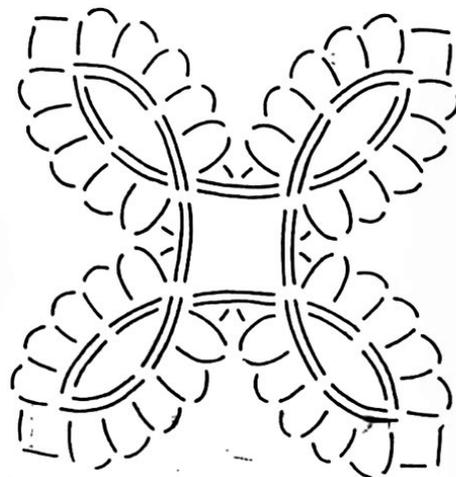
6. Applique

Wed., Feb 13 -- 10am - noon  
Alice Dokken, 9 Orchard Lane, Katonah  
232-4279  
7:30pm-9:30pm--Ginny Watson, 50 Hillside  
Ave., Mt. Kisco, 666-4257

Thurs., Feb 14 -- 10am - noon  
Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Av  
White Plains, NY - Terri Reilly 428-3468

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. Katonah--Alice Dokken 232-4279.



## \*\*\*\*\* RANDOM MUSINGS OF A NON-QUILTER\*\*\*\*\*

At the risk of getting drummed out of the corps, we must get this straight: I don't quilt. This was first brought home to me several years ago when I made a pillow for a dear friend. My daughter (best audience, severest critic) looked at it, pronounced the pattern fine and the colors excellent, but wasn't I going to take the bastings out?

Why, then, am I here? I do other things: sew, piece, cut up fabrics and reassemble them, almost anything that involves cloth, particularly buying the stuff. There are three rooms of it downstairs and I know what it all is and where it all is. Visibility -- as much as space permits -- is important; besides, I like to pat it, even talk to it when arranging and rearranging. Luckily, I needn't conceal anything; my husband indulges my habit. One of my friends has to carry her fabric home in a grocery bag with potatoes on top.

I may be the most cloth-oriented person you know. A year ago my personal Santa Claus offered the fur coat of my choice. After dutifully looking at every mink in the market and trying on most of them, I had to admit that the quest was doomed to fail. I'm a cloth person, not a fur one. Returning to SC, I explained this, asking if instead I could have the new top-of-the-line Pfaff. I'd make my own coat. The deal was swiftly accepted with big smiles all around. He has never asked how this project is coming along, either, and it will be appreciated if this can be the prevailing attitude. When I finish a coat, you'll know.

Getting on to quilts, we collect them -- by no known formula except quality and appeal. Every quilt makes a statement; if it's talking to me, I listen and respond. I've never met a quilt I couldn't like, except one gray checked yo-yo that looked like troops of marching icebags. There are actually individuals who won't consider a red/white quilt because they have one already, or because the pattern wouldn't go with the wallpaper. They are missing the greatest joy: being emotionally involved with an art form that is tactile and flexible as no flat or painted object can be. A quilt may be a bridge to the past or a giant leap into the future. Each has its place its admirers and its message. A Canadian quiltmaker wrote me that women there, upon hearing what he did, inquired what his pattern was -- a question he didn't understand until he realized that each of these women made just

one quilt pattern over and over and had no desire to do anything more. At the other end of the spectrum, consider the graphic appeal of whatever contemporary work you have recently seen, realizing that only since the mid-1970's has the artist-produced quilt been a creative force. Quilts are wonderful at every level and we needn't choose. We can love them all.

There is an unusual quilt exhibit opening this month in Portland at the Oregon Historical Center that presents quilts as cultural documents, showing that the importance of handmade quilts as an American art form and as historic documents is increasingly recognized. Willa Cather has written that "fine quality is a distinct disadvantage in articles made for great numbers of people who do not want a thing that 'wears' but who want change—a succession of new things that are quickly threadbare and can be lightly thrown away". Almost everything in our lives can be disposable if we want, and I'm not against paper plates, but there may be need of an anchor as well. An 1875 Log Cabin can help when you feel, as did Willy Loman, "kind of temporary about myself."

A gardeners' calendar lists the ten virtues of working with the soil: Industry, perseverance, creativity, generosity, patience, enthusiasm, and so on. Every one of these qualities can be applied just as well to working with cloth. Relaxation should head the list -- who among us has not found peace by piecing; solutions to problems just well up out of nowhere when you stop trying so hard and do something that soothes and lets you feel good about yourself.

My grown son recently came to visit, bearing in his arms what appeared to be a tattered muslin dogbed. Beaming, he said that when I gave him this quilt (!) I had instructed him to use it, not fold it away. He must have used it every day and twice on Sunday, goodness knows what for. As I struggled with this raggy pile of scraps, I felt some temptation to replace rather than restore; there seemed no place to begin. But I couldn't do that, here was a piece of his 4th grade shirt and there a bit of his scout neckerchief -- and that blue right there is the kitchen curtain from our first house. As I worked (and worked and worked) on what seemed an impossible job, it came to me that my son had brought it with the same certainty that long ago he came with a broken truck or a scraped elbow -- he absolutely knew that I could make it right. Thanks, grubby cloth, I didn't expect another chance to be a hero.

The lighter moments are memorable too.

RANDOM MUSINGS OF A NON-QUILTER (con't)

Six years ago I went with a friend to every major show in the country, taking workshops, making friends, viewing every existing slide, and of course buying a little cloth. It was the year of the Gingers and never doubt that the demonstrator lost the tips of two fingers. ...I was there. We rented a car in San Francisco to drive the coastal route to Ashland Oregon; it was breathtaking. Soon, though, we realized the need for a faster route and swung onto an inland highway. At Ukiah we stopped at Pat's Place to get some food and directions. As we entered, Pat came forward to introduce himself and ask that we sign his guestbook. Four men who were playing a noisy game of cards in the back fell silent as we asked if we were on the right road. Silent, that is, for a moment, then all began to talk at once, each pressing for his own as the only possible way and shouting down all the others. We beat it, unnoticed in the tumult. We did get to Ashland, albeit an hour late for the opening dinner. The following Christmas both of us received a handwritten holiday greeting from Pat and Mrs. Pat -- the temptation was too strong: We typed a formal note advising that these two travelers had vanished in August on the California coast and were never heard from again.

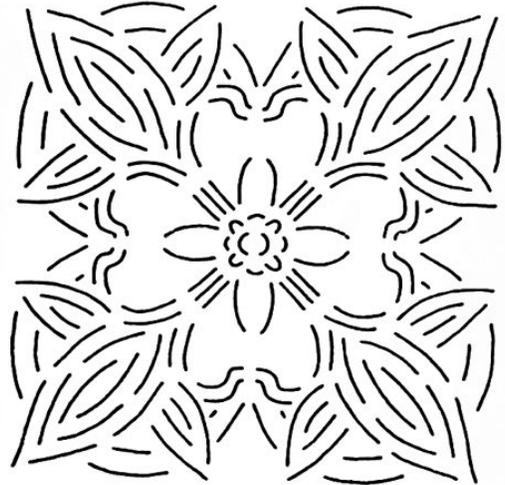
Did you all see the cartoon in Quilt World last February? A matron is seated in the doctor's office holding an infant and the hand of a toddler. Nine stairstep kids swarm over the desk and doctor. The caption: "Have you tried quilting in the late evening hours?"

Ardis James



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.....

I would like to introduce a new article -- "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR". If you have a letter you would like to write, we will see that it is printed. Just send them to Joan Johnson, Snake Hill Rd., Garrison, NY 10524.



TESSELATED?

Your pieced patchwork quilt may really be tessellated! According to Webster tessellated means: Formed by inlaying materials of different colors in little squares, triangles or other geometrical figures. If it is an overall pattern like log cabin or tumbling blocks, whose elements touch, leaving no room for a separate background, your quilt is definitely tessellated!

