

Northern Star Quilters' Guild, Ltd.

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

JOAN JOHNSON EDITOR

NEWS & NOTES

JUNE, 1985

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

This the time of the year to reflect on the year gone by. There are so many individuals who gave their time and work so freely for the success of the guild. I want to thank the entire board and quilt show committee for their work this year.

Ginny Watson and the entire quilt show committee did a superb job handling such an enormous undertaking. We had record attendance again this year. Thanks Ginny.

Our programs were very different this year. Linda Horton had tried some new things and brought a dash of spice to some old things. We tried shadow quilting and experienced a Greek auction. Thanks Linda.

Terri Reilly was busy getting us the latest Quilt Digests at reduced prices and also put together for a second time the guild's resource directory. The guild had never offered as many workshops as in this past year through Terri's efforts. Marge Murphy was such a delight and made converts to trapunto out of many. Thanks Terri.

Hats off to Jean Sparacin. Both boutiques brought in more sales than last year and had more members participating. Even Jean's husband didn't escape without working on building displays. This year is also the first trip offered to guild members. Jean will still be working on the July trip while the rest of us are enjoying the first weeks of retirement. Thanks Jean.

Joan Crawford had undertaken that stupendous job as treasurer two years in a row! That meant tallying FOUR boutique figures, TWO quilt shows, and TWO audits. One would have been enough for anyone! Joan must have written enough checks to paper the walls of a house. Thanks Joan.

Pat Davis had to contend with more and more new members every month. With membership now about 321, that's a lot of buttons to make! Thanks Pat.

The newsletter editor, Joan Johnson, gave us some new reading. Everyone enjoyed reading those special articles written by

our members. Thanks Joan.

Carole Hallenbeck kept us filled with refreshments every month. Thanks Carole.

Peggy Lawler worked hard on publicity throughout the year. It's not easy dealing with magazines, newspaper, and radio with all their different requirements. Much of her efforts bore fruit especially when the November boutique was publicized on cable television for the first time. Thanks Peggy.

And behind the scenes Cary Lou Canfield wrote those letters and Patty Larkin and Rita Floess typed up those minutes of the meetings. Thanks ladies for all your sore fingers.

So many positive things occurred this year including the passage of some well planned by-laws. and it came about not only through the efforts of the board but each and everyone of the members who helped. From handing out flyers to collecting ballots, from hankling door prizes to cleaning up, there were hundreds of jobs performed by the members of this guild that must not go unheeded. There would be no NSQG, Ltd. without the cooperation of all of you out there. An organization such as ours with so many things going on owes its success to the members who volunteer to keep the machine going. You are the life blood of NSQG, Ltd. and congratulations to all who gave life to this guild during this past year.

I thank all of you who gave me their support and encouragement. This job is not an easy one, but it was made so much easier when you offered your constructive help and advice. I am looking forward to getting back into the crowd of people at a meeting and getting to know you all more intimately. And boy, do I have quilting projects that I am itching to get to. So ladies, make room, here I come!

Your friend,
Diane Durr

P.S. I can't wait till July's trip. Those vendors keep haunting my sleep at night! See you then.



PROGRAMS-----

While absolutely delicious, a salad supper for 200 people was felt to be unmanagable. Never fear though, you won't go hungry in June! Instead we are going to try a more novel approach - a "boxed" dinner wrapped in a 1/2 yd. of material! Each dinner should include a sandwich, or dinner salad, a munchie (chips, carrot sticks, etc.) and a desert (fruit, cookies, etc.) Beverages will be provided by the Hospitality. Be sure to use disposable containers and/or silverware. Theoretically, we won't know who made what and will choose our dinners according to the fabric in which it is wrapped. Please use 100% cottons so that the yardage will be quitable! As you enter in June, you will be given your door prize number. These tickets will also be used to determine who gets first selections. Only people who participate in the boxed dinner will be eligible for the door prize. There will not be any "extra" dinners. If you choose not to participate in the boxed dinner, you might still want to come and enjoy our movie, "Threading thru Time". Maybe you'll want to pack some popcorn?) Also - this is your last chance for Show 'n Tell. We'll have lots of time for everyone's projects, so bring them all in!

I'd like to add a parting word as I leave the office of Programs V.P. I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the programs for 1984-85 and I hope you have enjoyed our evenings as much as I did. I owe my thanks to many, many guild members who helped with idea, contacts, encouragement and their time to plan and teach the shadow quilting and skills meetings. I can truly say I never asked anyone for help who didn't give it cheerfully and that made my job easier and very gratifying. I would also like to thank Irma Shore and Carole Sterk for their cheerful support and terrificly good taste in selecting our monthly door prizes. It was a big help to me. I know we all appreciated their hard work, especially if you were a lucky winner! Thanks again Irma and Carole!

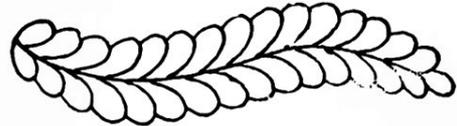
Have a healthy, happy summer and I'll see you in September!

Linda Horton



Following tradition, the Guild would again like to give our departing President, Diane Durr, a basket full of 1/4 yd. fabrics for use in her free moments. She's certain to have more free time now than she had serving as president of this busy organization!

So there will be a basket at the membership table for us to leave our 1/4 yd "Thank you" in.

FROM MEMBERSHIP -----

What a antastic year our Guild has had. I know it sure has kept me busy keeping up with all the new members each month. Our membership now stands at 321 and growing. We received several new memberships at the Quilt Show and they will be added to our membership list in September.

Just a reminder that annual membership dues will be due in September and can be paid anytime after the June meeting.

A great big thank you to everyone who has helped out at the membership table this year at monthly meetings and also at the Quilt Show.

For those of you who have not stopped by to get you membership button or folder, I will have them at the June meeting. I also have a few NSQG tote bags left and this may be your last chance to get one.

Pat Davis.

The Shrub Oak Library Wednesday a.m. Quilting Group (weekly. 10-12) continues. Now we also have a 4th Tuesday p.m. group (monthly, 7-9). Bring your portable projects. Beginners welsome. See you June 25th. (in July and August we may have a temporary change in the schedule. For details, check with the Hart Library 245-5262 or Kay Fowler 245-1277.



A World Of Quilts VI

This is what is commonly called "wrap-up time". Pulling together all the loose ends, writing and collecting reports, getting my blue file box ready for the person or persons who will orchestrate World of Quilts VII. Every year we grow and every year is a learning process. Every year there are things we want to repeat and things we would not wish to repeat! However, there are lots more positives than negatives and that is what continues to make The World of Quilts a wonderful quilting adventure for for those who plan and those who attend.

Like a patchwork quilt and its many pieces, the quilt show committee is made up of lots of pieces too. Those pieces are hard working, creative people. Together with the support of an army of volunteers, the show becomes a reality. I have read all the evaluation sheets in so far and it's a standing ovation for our efforts. There are also lots of nice notes and some good constructive criticism for next year's committee to ponder.

As for statistics, there were 3,100 paid admissions. That does not include almost 300 volunteers, vendors, speakers and invited guests. Saturday admissions exceeded 2,000! No wonder it was wall to wall people at times. The raffle tickets sold will net Hospice over \$6,000! That check will be presented at the June meeting. We have received a lovely letter from the raffle quilt winner and the Bernina winner was almost too excited to copy down the address for Stretch & Sew.

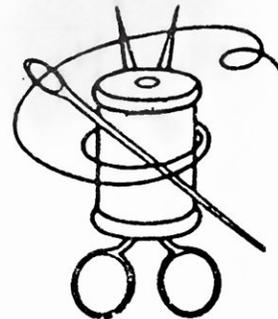
My thanks to all my committee members, their committees, those who spent hours (days) parking cars, building display items, constructing frames and hanging quilts, the clean up crew all the volunteers and those who gave us their support all year. You are all wonderful people and with out all our combined efforts this unique quilting experience couldn't happen. Thank you all for sharing it with me.

Cindy Watson

Quilt Show Chr, World of Quilts VI

In June of '84, I received a basket full of fabric. Mostly quarter yards, some much bigger and a few surprizes too. I've enjoyed them all year! Some had personal notes inside, some with notes about the piece, or a note "I've been washed and dried". Some were tied with lace some with ribbon and some came with a matched contrast fabric. So for those who are new this year, this is a note from last year's president who has really had fun with her basket of goodies and I'm glad it is being repeated for Diane.

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* * * * * SEWER'S TIPS * * * * *

When making baby - children's quilted clothing, use flannel for (instead of) batting. It takes away from bulk.

Cindy Extance



* * * * WORKSHOPS * * WORKSHOPS * * * * *

Mon. June 10 - Reversible Shadow Trapunto
Betty Whitley- Granite Springs
10am-3pm \$10.00 plus kit call
248-8265

Tues. June 11- Reversible Shadow Trapunto
Betty Whitley- Granite Springs
10am 3pm \$10.00 plus kit call
248-8265

Sat. June 22 - 4" MINI Mariner's Compass
Susan Ackerman- Scarsdale
10am-3pm \$10. plus \$3. supply
kit -call SC3-3906

Our updated Resource Directory for 1985-86
will be available at the June meeting.
Please pick up your copy and any other
members' copy who won't be able to attend.
Thanks and happy summer quilting!

Terri Reilly

* * * * * COMING EVENTS * * * * *

June 8-9: Dutchess Heritage Quilters
Biennial Quilt Show, Dutchess
Community College, Poughkeepsie

June 26: "America's Textile Heritage" -
Museum of American Folk Art, NYC

June 29-30: American Field Service Quilt Show
IV by Northern Highlands Regional
High School, Hillside Ave. and
Forest Rd., Allendale, NJ

June 29: "Kirby Quilt Show & Sale"
Caledonia Fairgrounds, Exit 23
I-91, Lyndonville, VT.

July 12-14: Vermont Quilt Festival, Norwich
University, Northfield, VT.

July 10: The Textile Tradition: An Overview,
The Kentucky Quilt Project,
Militant Needles: Slave Quilting
in the Ante-Bellum South, Alabama
Quilts: A Personal Odyssey, The
Baltimore Album Quilt - Museum of
American Folk Art, 125 W. 55th St.
NYC, NY

July 17: "Seminole Indian Patchwork" -
Lecture - by Lisa Wolfson -
Museum of American Folk Art, NYC

July 24: "A Look At Contemporary Quilt
Makers" - Lecture by Pat Yamin -
Museum of American Folk Art, NYC

August 7: "Amish Quilts" - lecture by
Elizabeth Warren-Museum of American
Folk Art, NYC

August 17-18: Long Island Guild Show, at Adelphi
College, Garden City, LI, NY

August 21: "Quilts of the American South" -
Lecture by Cynthia Elyce Rubin -
Museum of American Folk Art, NYC

August 24-25: Eastern Long Island Quilters Guild
Southampton Co-lege, Southampton, NY

All lectures listed at the Museum of American
Folk Art require reservations. Time of lectures
are 10:30 to 11:30 am - Place: City Gallery
Auditorium, 2 Columbus Circle (58th Street,
Between Eighth Avenue and Broadway) - Fee:
Individual lectures -\$5. ,Series-\$20. members;
\$25. non-members. For further information,
please contact Nancy Dorer, Curator of Education
at 212-581-2474. Checks should be made
payable to the Museum of American Folk Art,
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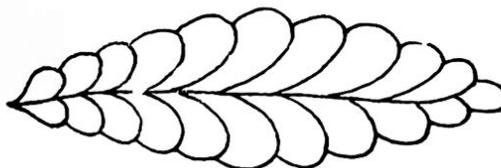
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* * * * * AN APPLE FOR THE TEACHER * * * * *

When I was growing up there were four things I wanted to be; a ballroom dancer, a nurse, a wife, and a mother. There were four things I did not want to be; a movie star, a beautician, a secretary, or a teacher. Thus, like most dreamers, when I grew up I worked in the accounting office of a large insurance company in N.Y.C.; I did marry the boy next door, had three children, and did in my latter years, become a quilting teacher.

My beginnings were very modest. A group of young friends asked if I would share what I knew about piecing and quilting. I had made one quilt. The class was a delight. We made three squares including the nine patch, maple leaf, and shoo-fly. A little later there were two more classes, and then came that fateful Tuesday morning. The director of the Adult Learning Center of a local college called to tell me that their quilting teacher would not be able to take the scheduled class, that there 24 students registered, and that the program started on Thursday.

"Could you possibly step in? Please!"

"My goodness," I said, "I'm not sure, I'm not prepared (TWO DAYS), and I must talk it over with my husband." (Always an out).

"We would be so appreciative. We can divide the ladies into two classes, and we will pay you \$***.**"

"I will do it, I can be ready and my husband will not mind a bit."

Now you just have not lived until you blindly, vainly attempt to teach 12 women from 7 to 8:30 P.M., and 12 more from 8:32 to 10:00 P.M. I have come a long way in the past five years, and feel qualified to pass along a few rules to aspiring quilt teachers. I can't list my list of 10 NEVERS.

1. To start, NEVER agree to teach on two days notice unless you have been teaching large groups for a few years. However, if the price is right---wing it!

2. After you have introduced yourself as a replacement (mistake), NEVER ask the question, "How many of you have already quilted?"

If even one brave hand goes up, you will immediately feel intimidated. And without missing a beat, you will automatically ask, "Why are you here then?"

Now that brave one is also intimidated and you all are off to a good start.

3. NEVER, but never say to the class, "I have with me about 25 patterns. Choose one that appeals to you."

Twelve patterns will appeal to twelve different ladies. And remember, they are

all beginners and need your individual help. You make the choice (simple is smart), and you stick to your guns.

4. NEVER assume that your pupils speak your "quiltese". With authority I instructed my pupils to use 100% cotton fabric in making quilts. DO YOU KNOW that flannel is 100% cotton; and so is corduroy, and cotton knits, and terry and monks cloth, and some drapery fabrics?. So watch it! Be specific! To make matters even more mixed up cotton comes in plaids, stripes, checks, and (MERCY) polka dots! The aforementioned are fine when you are way down the road with wall hangings and such, but beware with the beginner.

5. About the same time my Pop put a pencil in my hand, my Mom decided I could handle a crochet hook. When I mastered that and had crocheted a chain 5 miles long, she bought me a small tea towel pre-stamped with a cross-stitch design. She threaded a needle with embroidery floss, put a small thimble on the middle finger of my right hand and said, "Remember, you never sew without a thimble."

To this day, before I pick up a needle to thread, I pop that middle finger into my mouth (Stickum). then into my thimble and there it stays until I have finished sewing. Doesn't everyone do that? NEVER! When I start a new class, I always tell them a little of quilt history, and then I go over a list of working tools.

"As far as I am concerned," I say, "the most important tools in hand piecing and quilting are the proper size needle and the proper size thimble."

Does everyone---anyone---nod in agreement? Thimble? What is a thimble? NEVER try to teach an old dog new tricks. I have seen thimbles on the wrong hand as well as on the wrong finger. I have watched pupils use finger nails and table tops to push that needle through the cloth, not to mention small pliers to pull it through. It is a very defeating experience for me when I have to say good-bye to a class wherein no one shared my dependance on that lovely little tool.

6. Try NEVER to say in sympathy, "Now listen, if you really are afraid to cut your fabric, bring it in to the next class, and I will help you."

You may find yourself in the same position of the High School music teacher when he said to the students before their first concert, "Now listen, if you are not sure of yourselves, fake it." NO MUSIC!! True, there are some pupils who absolutely look on this fine piece of fabric as a cadaver and themselves as young surgeons their first day in the lab. THEY need guiding. Most of the others take a sink or swim attitude.

AN APPLE FOR THE TEACHER (con't) * *

7. Be understanding when your pupils quilting stitches resemble basting. NEVER say, "Of course your stitches are too large. That needle you are using was meant for canvas. Will you believe me when I say small needles are in?"

Try say, "Of course you can make small stitches. Try my #9 needle. What? Too small? If you think this is small, wait until you see the surprise in store for you when we start applique."

8. NEVER be tempted to bring in the finest example of your work. It may be devastating for a beginner. Instead bring in you first piece and tell them what you did wrong and what not to do. Save your goodies for the last session as an encouragement.

9. NEVER be just a teacher--be a friend. Give your pupils your phone number and be on call. No one has ever called me before 10:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. There are no foolish questions and it is a great "getting to know you better" connection.

10. NEVER say die! When you start week one with 14 pupils and have only 7 in week six, do not be discourage. You have done your best and there are several reasons why women drop out of a quilting class. Hubby has changed shifts; the kids come down with chicken-pox one at a time; another important commitment; or unbelievable as it may seem, they find they just do not like quilting!

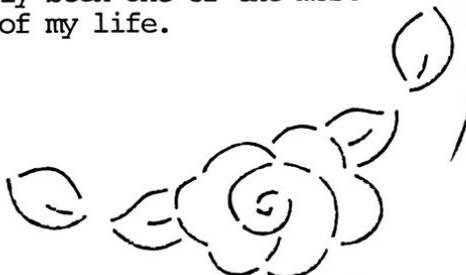
I have never had a pupil I could not love, and I can only hope the feelings have be mutual. Maybe they have.

At the end of the course one year just before Christmas, one of my ladies handed me a lovely white box filled with delicious homemade pastries.

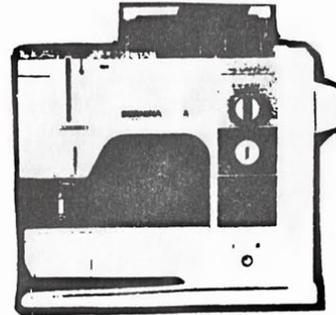
"An apple for my teacher", she said.

Irene Nappi

P.S. Much of the above has been in fun. Being a quilt teacher, whether the worst, best or in between; orthodox or winging it has most certainly been one of the most rewarding times of my life.

FROM THE EDITOR-----

I wish to extend a well deserved thank you to Irene Nappi who has help me by gathering up all the wonderful feature articles we have been enjoying each month. Thank you to all the members who have made my job easier by suppling me with information for the newsletter. Have a wonderful summer!



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