



Q.U.I.L.T.S

Quilters United in Learning Together, Schenectady

<http://quiltschenectady.org>

Meetings-First Thursday of Month from September to June

FEBRUARY 2025

Hello Fellow Quilters!

I am hoping this story of how I became president of the guild inspires you to become one of our leaders.

When I first joined the guild it was nice to just show up, do what I wanted and just enjoy everything the guild has to offer. Then the hospitality chair asked if I could help, so I agreed. To be fair she did most of the work, I just stepped in when she couldn't be there and helped put food and drinks out. Then the pandemic hit and I was speaking with Kathleen regularly to distribute elastic (My house was a pick up site). In the spring of 2021 I got a call from her asking if I would consider the Vice President position. Initially I thought, do I really want to do this? I do not consider myself a leader, more of a worker bee. Knowing I would be working with Lisa I agreed. I then chaired, along with Linda, the 2024 show. Which brings us to spring of 2023 when Lisa asked if I would be president. I said no, several times. Laurel, who I first met at our outdoor meeting in Central Park, says, "I will be your Vice President if you are President." There have been some hiccups along the way but with the fabulous people and our wonderful membership we got through it. I have met some great people, learned about the guild and a bit about myself along the way. So here I am many years after I first stepped up to put food and drinks out for our members asking you if you are

a leader. If I can do this you can too! We all need to step up and help. Sometimes I did not know if I was doing something correct but the board and past leadership was there to help. We are a wonderful, helpful and forgiving group.

So please think about what position you could step into to help **your** guild. The elected positions are President, Vice President and Secretary, all two year terms. Open committee chair positions are show chair, newsletter, fat quarters and historian. In the newsletter are brief descriptions of these positions. Please take a look and see if you can take on one of these responsibilities, or perhaps you know someone who would be a good fit. Maybe you and a friend: one president and one vice president or co-chairs for the show. If I can do it, so can you!

To end I leave you with some words inspired by something Cathryn said to me: Try something scary and step out of your comfort zone but know that someone will be there for you to help along the way. (This of course goes for quilting and life in general!)

Karen Smith
President

Q.U.I.L.T.S. Membership

The guild welcomes new members! Anyone wishing to join the guild, membership dues are \$30 for the 2024-2025 guild-year, which runs July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Membership can be initiated or renewed by visiting the membership desk at any monthly guild meeting. The website also has links to download the membership form for the current year which can be submitted by mail with a check or if one wishes to pay using the PayPal link. The online link for the 2024-2025 membership dues is:

<https://forms.gle/aBJzcV97nUezHZgHA>

You can type this link into your web browser, and it will take you to a page with the membership form. You have the option to pay via PayPal, a \$1 convenience fee has been added, or you may indicate that you will pay by check. Cash can only be accepted at the membership desk when we meet in person.

Please feel free to ask someone you know to attend a monthly meeting as a guest if they'd like to check us out or refer them to the guild website for more information: <http://quiltschenectady.org>. Note: Guests may be asked to pay a fee to attend depending on the type of meeting, but guest fees may be put toward the annual membership dues if a guest decides to join the guild.

Guild members are encouraged to wear a hand-made name tag to in-person meetings. Wearing a name tag helps members get to know one another and qualifies members to enter the monthly drawings for a gift certificate to a local quilt shop. While the guild has adopted a pattern for the name tag (thanks to Shirley Hedman for her design), any hand-made name tag is acceptable. Here is the pattern for the guild nametag: [QUILTS Name Tag.pdf \(quiltschenectady.org\)](#)

Arilee Bagley
VP Membership

Meeting Line Up

MEETING LINE-UP

For our in-person meetings remember to bring your handmade name tag, completed block of the month if you picked one up, money for goodie baskets, completed Vet and Straight from the Heart Kids' quilts, a fat quarter if you choose to participate and of course show and tell.

March 6th via Zoom meeting starts at 7:00; "doors" open at 6:30

- Karen Miller - Free Motion quilting
- Link will be sent out a few days before the meeting
- No show and tell

April 4th meeting starts at 7:00 doors open at 6:30

- Timna Tarr - "Flying Colors" trunk show
- Fat Quarter - March - Heart and Dogs, April - Tea Pots or Coffee Pots

May 1st meeting starts at 7:00 doors open at 6:30

- Techniques and ideas by Q.U.I.L.T.S members
- Fat Quarters - 10-inch squares (bring 5)

June 5th Member meeting and potluck dinner starts at 6:30 doors open at 6:00

- South Schenectady Fire Department Pavilion, 6 Old Mariaville Road, Rotterdam.
- Fat Quarter - hearts and chocolates
- More details will be in the spring newsletter

The Program Committee

Spring into 2025 with Q.U.I.L.T.S.!



Karen L. Miller from the Finger Lakes in New York, will help you "Align your FMQ Stars" in a Zoom presentation at our March 6th guild meeting, sharing information that applies to all free motion quilters and covers the very basics of getting

started - needles, tension, thread, batting, body movement and more. It's packed full of quilts completed on a home machine but many of the tips apply to both home and long arm machine quilting.

FMQ was the most requested topic in the member survey a couple of years ago, which would help explain why Karen's Saturday, March 8th, Zoom workshop quickly filled. Participants will learn how to shorten the time it takes to finish their next quilt and learn to free motion quilt on our home sewing machines using practice quilt sandwiches. Karen will cover thread, batting, tools, tension, and tips while stitching basic motifs including flower, loop, pebble, swirl, echo and more.

Also in March, **Brita Nelson** of Berwyn, Pennsylvania, is back by popular demand on March 21st! A second full group of members will experience Brita's "Making Magic, a Disappearing Block Sampler Quilt." They will learn nine different disappearing 9-patch blocks to assemble into a sampler quilt.

April 3rd will bring **Timna Tarr** of Hadley, Massachusetts, to our in person guild meeting for her "Flying Colors Trunk Show." She'll tell us about her fun, colorful design and color choices and the personal stories behind the quilts. Timna's own nationally award-winning quilts are in private and corporate collections and have been seen in exhibits, publications, on The Quilt Show and Quilting Arts TV. She is a designer for Studio e Fabrics and the author of *Stitched Photo Mosaic Quilting*.



The next day, Friday, April 4th, Timna will teach a full day, two part workshop. The morning session will cover "Designing with Flying Colors" where students will try out new color combinations and learn how to use color placement as a major design element. After lunch we will use what we have learned for "Mini Maps: Postcards" and create unique quilted postcard-sized maps of locations special to us. Learn more and register here:

<https://forms.gle/HApLy8JN4Ex4d5Jy8>.

In place of our annual Live Notions Department activity we will benefit from the vast knowledge base that is our membership when we enjoy brief presentations by members about quilting tips, techniques and methods at our May 1st, in person guild meeting. Have something you'd like to share? Contact Connie at QUILTSPROGRAMS@gmail.com.

Looking for a way to transport quilting supplies? (And support your tote bag habit?) How about a Sew Many Creations Tourist Tote! On Saturday, May 10th, Q.U.I.L.T.S. member **Sonya Nachbar** of Altamont, NY and Gray Fox Sewing will teach a 4 hour class on how to create these fun, useful tote bags. Watch for registration details.



Finally, June will bring our end of year picnic and the Member Challenge, described elsewhere in this issue!

Planning for 2025 – 2026 will be underway soon. Presenter ideas? Let me know!

Connie Trigger
QUILTSPROGRAMS@gmail.com

Veterans Quilts

Wednesday, March 12th 9am – 4pm will be a Veteran’s Quilt Kit Making day to be held at the **Rotterdam Community Center**. Our supply of kits has dwindled and I could use lots of help replenishing it. Join us for some fun picking out your favorite pattern (we’ve got some new ones!), shopping our VQ stash, and curating a kit or two or three.

Wednesday, May 14th 9am – 4pm will be a Veteran’s Quilt sew-in also held at the **Rotterdam Community Center**. Come enjoy socializing with other guild members while making a quilt for a deserving veteran.

The Rotterdam Community Center is located at 705 Curry Road in Rotterdam. We will be meeting in the Friendship Hall on the 2nd floor which can easily accommodate 20 or more of us. There is an elevator to help carry up your belongings, if needed. There are plenty of tables and chairs and very good lighting. I’ll have only one ironing board, one iron, and one cutting mat so if you would like to bring your own cutting and pressing tools feel free. My only tip is that you may also want to bring a seat cushion.

To sign up for these events please call, text or email Lisa at (518) 852-0584 or LPiseczny@nycap.rr.com. Bring your favorite drink and a light lunch. I’ll provide fruit and snacks to round out your meal. Can’t stay the whole time? No worries, come and go as you please.

General Guidelines for Veterans Quilts

Size: Approximately 50” x 70”.

Fabric & Design: 100% cotton fabric. Colors and patterns are your choice. However, most recipients are men and they don’t often choose the patriotic ones. Please take this into consideration when making your selections.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE remember to place a label on the back of any completed Veteran Quilt you turn in. Labels should read something like “Thank you for your service. Made by Mary (or a member of), Q.U.I.L.T.Schenectady, November 2024”. Be sure that whatever you use to make the label is permanent and will not wash away. It is a means to identify the origin of the quilt and often we will receive a thank you note from the recipient.

Lisa Wend

THANK YOU to all who continue to make Veterans Quilts. I’ve seen first-hand how much they mean to our Veteran recipients. Pat McGurn, Cathryn Larkin, and I delivered 37 quilts to the Stratton VA Hospital in January. We were able to spend a little time talking with some of the Veterans. Typically, we show each patient two quilts to choose from but one gentleman wanted to see ALL of the quilts on our cart. He was so charming we acquiesced. He then hemmed and hawed for a good 5 minutes trying to decide which one he liked the best until it finally dawned on us that he was probably just teasing us into staying longer. 😊 The Fisher House was closed for renovations but we plan to return soon to restock their “quilt closet”. If anyone is interested in going with us to hand out quilts, please let me know. It is truly a privilege and a heartwarming experience.

Veterans quilt kits will again be available at the April guild meeting. Our kits are designed to be beginner patterns that can be completed in short time but please know that there is no time limit for completing it if you take one.

As a reminder, the Veteran’s Quilts kits are available at no cost to guild members at most meetings. Kits include fabric for making the quilt top, backing, and binding as well as batting and a fabric label. Alternatively, you can use your own pattern and/or fabric. Guidelines are below. We can provide a 60” x 80” batting.

Straight from the Heart Kids Quilts

Straight from the Heart Kids Quilts has been very busy this fall and winter. In November we held the first of our biennial sew-ins. We had a great turnout! Many people chose patterns and fabrics from our stash to make quilts of various sizes for the three organizations we are contributing to this year.

In December quilts were delivered to Things of My Very Own, Northern Rivers Family Services, and Child Advocacy of Schenectady. They were all beautiful and greatly appreciated.

During the month of January several kit making workshops were held. Members gathered at my home and spent four hours working on creating quilt kits of various sizes and patterns to be used at the second sew-in in February.

Despite the weather, about forty people were able to sew kits, quilt tops, cut more kits, and cut a

whole roll of batting into sizes needed for our larger quilts. Guild members brought in 20 completed quilts all ready to be donated.

Remember, we are donating quilts of various sizes: 36x36/40 (babies/toddlers), 42x48/50 (4-7 year olds), 48x50/60 (8-12 year olds), and 54/72 (12-18 years olds). If you are able to supply batting and/or backings for tops you have made, especially the smaller ones, we would be able to make more efficient use of the batting and backings we have on hand.

If you are interested in quilting tops, either on a domestic or long arm machine, please let me know and I will bring tops, backing and batting to our April meeting. We currently have 50+ quilt tops needing quilting!

Maggie

Pet Beds

Pet Bed Stuffing Sew In

Friday, **April 11th**, 9:15 AM to 1:00 PM

Please come and help stuff the cloth bags that we made at the last sew in.

Please bring the scraps that you have been saving also, we will use that for the medium and small beds and I will bring craft batting for the bigger beds.

I would appreciate it if several people could bring their machines to sew the openings shut, just a simple stitch. Also please bring something to drink for yourself and I will bring some snacks for everyone. Whoever would like to come is welcome and very much appreciated!

Please leave a message at (518) 346-0910 if you are able to help, last minute also welcome!

We will be in the small room off the kitchen again.

Thank you!

Jane Martinec

Block of the Month

Block of the Month: February 2025

Hello Quilters! Both Sandi and I want to thank you for the interest you have shown in the block of the month kits. We will continue to make our kits colorful and user friendly, while sharing a new pattern or colorway you may not have thought of. In case you haven't noticed, we are making a smaller number of kits available to purchase. We hope that the smaller number is appealing as the winner of the completed blocks will still have enough to make a smaller quilt, while leaving you with plenty of time to work on other projects are working on! If you're like us, you have more than one project going at a time! All we ask is that you return the finished block at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the next meeting please be sure to bring it to the following meeting. Feel free to reach out to Susan at 518-866-4559 with any questions.

Susan Baron

Open Leadership Positions Descriptions

For more encouragement, a quote from Winnie the Pooh. "... You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think." Christopher Robin to Winnie the Pooh in *Pooh's Grand Adventure: The Search for Christopher Robin*.

These are brief descriptions. There are detailed instructions for each of these roles and there are people to help guide you if needed. Contact me with any questions.

The **President** is responsible for overseeing the general operation of the guild. They run the membership meetings and chair the board meetings.

The **Vice President** assumes the power of the President in their absence. They also coordinate the rental space for our general meetings.

The **Secretary** takes notes at guild meetings and board meetings. They place meeting notices in the Daily Gazette and the Times Union once a month and send out thank you and sympathy cards.

The **Show Chair** is the coordinator of the 2026 show. They coordinate with Proctors, run meetings and keep the committee heads informed and on task. Kathie told me it's like planning a wedding. There are records and a timeline to follow to keep you on track plus lots of people to help along the way. And the date is already set - October 3rd and 4th 2026. This could be two people if you have a friend to work with you.

The **Newsletter** person collects information for the newsletter and sends it out four times a year. If you are good with computers and compiling information then this is for you!

The **Fat Quarters** committee decides on a monthly fat quarter theme for the year and conducts the drawing at the membership meeting. This can be one or two people. So, if you want to do something with someone this is a great committee to join.

The **Historian** collects and protects our history as a quilt group. Photographs, or collects photos taken from guild activities and enters them into the Guild scrap book.

I know what you are all thinking: What if I can't be at all the meetings? Well, you will have a fantastic board and many members who can stand in your shoes so don't let that be the reason you choose not to step up!

So, give me a call or email me saying: Yes, I am in and I can do this!

Karen (518-312-7395) or karen@smith-online.org

Q.U.I.L.T.Schenectady Website and Contact Information

Website: www.QUILTSchenectady.org

Programs: QUILTSprograms@gmail.com

Newsletter: QUILTSnewsletter@gmail.com

Webmaster: QUILTSwebsite@gmail.com

Hello fellow members. Some may know and some may not, I obtained my DBA almost two years ago in the name of Gray Fox Sewing. I have been working at craft fairs but I have so much more in mind. As of right now, I am working on a Fall Quilt Retreat.



Gray Fox Sewing is offering

Fall Quilt Retreat, September 5th 11 am -8th 2 pm

Winter Clove Inn (wintercloveinn.com) for more information about the Inn

557 Winter Clove Rd

Round Top, NY 12473

Give yourself some time away with likeminded people in the Catskills Mountains. For \$675 per person, you will receive 10 meals, starting lunch on the 5th, three nights and four days of sewing.

A \$100 deposit holds your spot and the rest of your payment is due by July 1st. Cancellation accepted till July 15th, after that no refunds will be available.

Please email for a form to be filled out if you would like to be part of the fun or more information.

grayfoxsewing@gmail.com

Sonya Nachbar



NEW YORK CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

Artistry in Stitches

A Needle Art Exhibit of Members' Work



Artistry in Stitches: A Needle Art Exhibit of Members'

Work

Members of the Capital District Chapter of the national Embroiderer's Guild of America are hosting an exhibit displaying a large assortment of our members' creations. A variety of needlework techniques will be shown. Technique demonstrations will occur periodically each day and docents will be available to answer questions. Our Needlework Closet offers new and gently used needlework supplies for sale. Baskets of donated needlework products and completed works will be raffled off. Visit our exhibit May 16-18, Friday-Sunday, 10a-4p at Pat's Barn, RTP Campus, 110 Defreest Dr, Troy, NY (www.patsbarn.com). Suggested entry donation is \$5.

To view our current newsletter, meeting schedule, class offerings and more, visit the chapter website at www.nycapega.org.



**Embroiderers' Guild of America
New York Capital District Chapter**

Artistry in Stitches

A Needle Art Exhibit of Members' Work

May 16–18, 2025

FRIDAY–SUNDAY 10–4

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The Needlework Closet

New & gently used needlework supplies
Cash or check only

Needlework Demonstrations

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PAT'S BARN

RTP Campus, 110 Defreest Drive, Troy, NY 12180
www.patsbarn.com

Suggested Donation: \$5.00 | 12 & Under Free

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For more information, email slmmdm91@outlook.com or visit nycapega.org