



**Q.U.I.L.L.T.S**

**Quilters United in Learning Together, Schenectady**

<http://quiltschenectady.org>

Meetings-First Thursday of Month from September to June

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## FEBRUARY 2024

Hello Fellow Quilters

First, let me welcome our 33 new members that have joined this year! I spoke with some of you in November but look forward to meeting more of you at our December meeting where there will be food, socializing and a fun activity.

A **BIG** shout out to Debbie McIntosh for chairing our successful show. With her leadership the committee and all the volunteers we had a beautiful show. It always amazes me to see the transformation of The GE Theater. Thank you all!

Thank you, Maggie, for lugging all the fabric, kits and batting so we can make wonderful quilts for kids. There was lots of sewing, cutting and socializing. I perhaps did a little too much socializing since I need to finish my top at home

I know it is early but I want to put this out there now so it will get people thinking. In June we vote for open positions on the board. At the end of this

program year, we will be voting for President, Vice President and Secretary. If you have any inkling to run for one of these positions, please let me know. I would be happy to discuss the details and time commitment, you could even shadow a bit this year if interested.

And of course we will be looking for a 2026 show chair. It seems early but the planning process starts in September 2025 and would like to have a chair named by June 2025.

Enjoy this holiday season with family and friends and happy quilting!

*Karen*



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### Q.U.I.L.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.

Attached to this newsletter is the annual distribution of the membership with contact information. All members that have joined or renewed by the November meeting are included in this list. (Let the VP for membership know if any corrections are needed.)

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 \(quiltschenectady.org\)](http://quiltschenectady.org)

*Arilee Bagley  
VP Membership*

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**The meeting dates for 2024-2025 are as follows:**

- **September 5**
- **October 2 (Wednesday) - Proctors**
- **October 5-6 Quilt Show**
- **November 7 - Sew In**
- **December 5 - Holiday Party**
- **January 2 - Zoom**
- **February 6 - Sew In**
- **March 6 - Zoom**
- **April 3**
- **May 1**
- **June 5 - South Schenectady Fire Department**



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### 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.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** – doors open at 6:30 meeting starts at 7

This is our annual “Sweet and Savory” Holiday Celebration. For this meeting, we ask half of membership to bring a sweet or savory finger food. This year if your last name starts with M-Z, please bring an appetizer, snack or dessert to share.

Fat quarter theme – a winter scene

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>** – via zoom ‘doors’ open at 6:30 meeting starts at 7:00

Speaker - Making Magic with Brita Nelson, Berwyn, Pennsylvania

**February 6<sup>th</sup>** – doors open at 4:00

This is another working meeting. We know not everyone can arrive at 4 so just show up when you can. Bring your sewing machine if you plan to sew or your rotary cutter, mat and ruler if you want to cut out kits. Pizza

and salad will be provided please bring your own beverage. A sign up for pizza will be sent out before the meeting so we know how much pizza to order. And of course, dessert is always welcome.

**No show and tell** at work meetings.

Fat quarter theme –

January – Fruits and Veggie, February – Jungle Animals

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## The Program Committee

Hello quilters!

Our 2024 – 2025 workshop series got underway in November when 14 of us met at the Fort Hunter Fire Department’s community room to learn how to use Stripology rulers from Q.U.I.L.T.S. member Laura Swensen. We cut strips, played with color and made “Strip Joint” blocks with this very helpful tool.

We’ve got a good variety of workshops still to come, having kept in mind your feedback in the Spring 2024 Programs survey. At our guild meetings dozens of members are adding their names to the “Save a spot for me!” workshop sheets at the Programs table. It’s not an obligation to register, or a guarantee of a spot, but is an opportunity to receive registration links first.



Our December workshop (on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 4:30) will be with Maryjean Vligorsky of Westerlo, NY. We will be creating cozy, ~30” x ~40” rugs out of jelly rolls.

We’ve moved the location to Brink Hall at the church so we will have plenty of room to work! In case the deadline has not passed before this comes out, here is the registration link: <https://forms.gle/Mh5Q3JbH4qKuKkeE38>

As we “Zoom” into January, Brita Nelson of Berwyn, Pennsylvania, will join us at our virtual guild meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to share her lecture, “Now You See It, Now You Don’t. The Magic of Disappearing Blocks.” Then also via Zoom on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, she will hold the workshop,

“Making Magic, a Disappearing Block Sampler Quilt.” We will learn nine different disappearing 9-patch blocks to assemble into a sampler quilt and receive a handout with 20 additional patterns. Fun fact: Brita is a former guild member! Register here:

<https://forms.gle/5Qg5c1syxNB6BkRX9>



We’ll be back in person in February for a sew-in (more info elsewhere in this issue) and then two days later on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, in a half day workshop, Cookie Goldman of Guilderland, NY will teach us how to create a quilted jacket out of a rectangle that we’ll piece and quilt before class. A quilter and former art teacher, Cookie will provide guidance ahead of time as to dimensions of the rectangle as it will relate to the length and width of the jacket and amount of bias binding to be prepped before class. For more information and to register: <https://forms.gle/rWKZ66DrvVpDyio89>

What else is to come? Karen Miller in March for free motion quilting, Timna Tarr in April for creating mini-map postcard quilts and a couple of other plans we have up our sleeves! And remember that your onetime \$20.00 workshop credit is available until June 2025.

*Connie Trigger, Kathy Lenic, Barb Valachovic*

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## Charity Donation

Our guild has a tradition of collecting gifts for a charity at our December meeting each year. This year we will be supporting the two organizations that receive Straight From The Heart Kids' Quilts made by our members, Things Of My Very Own (<https://thingsofmyveryown.org/>) and Schenectady County Child Advocacy Center (<https://schenectadycountyny.gov/districtattorney/cac>).

**Things Of My Very Own** does not get a lot of book donations. They requested new books for children ages newborn to age 7, ranging from board books to early chapter books.

**The Schenectady County Child Advocacy Center** would like bags. They do not get funding for bags to use when sending children home with food, gift cards, clothing, etc. I spoke with Casey, the director, and she suggested string backpacks. You can find inexpensive options to purchase but they are easy to make and will be convenient for the center to store. If you Google "string backpack tutorial" you will find tons of videos. Keep it simple! The string backpacks do not need pockets or a lining.

Here is a video with simple directions to follow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJmqKhv2nWs>. She uses two fat quarters, ribbon and parachute cord.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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## Veterans Quilts

Thank you to all who continue to make Veterans Quilts. We will be making a delivery to the Stratton VA Hospital and the Fisher House in November. If anyone is interested in going with us to hand out quilts, please let me know. It is truly a heartwarming experience.

For anyone who may not know, the guild provides Veterans quilt kits (free) at each guild meeting to guild members who would like to take one to make.

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 fabric. Guidelines are below. We can provide a 60" x 80" batting. There is a brief history of this service project on our website [https://quiltschenectady.org/?page\\_id=53](https://quiltschenectady.org/?page_id=53) if you would like more information.

### **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.

Label: Please place a label on the back of the quilt with your name, Schenectady Q.U.I.L.T.S. and a brief thank you. Example: "Thank you for your service. Made by Mary Smith, Q.U.I.L.T.Schenectady, November 2024". It is a means to identify the origin of the quilt and often we will receive a thank you note from the recipient. We also attach a note from the guild to each quilt.

## Join us for Quilting @ the Rotterdam Community Center



A new quilting group, the Wednesday Quilters, has been started at the Rotterdam Community Center, 705 Curry Road, every Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 pm. Whether you're an experienced quilter, an intermediate who wants to expand your skills, or you're just starting out, come sew with us!

We meet in the Friendship Hall which is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. There is an elevator to help transport heavy items. Tables, chairs, an ironing board, iron, cutting mats, rotary cutters, and acrylic rulers are available for all to use. Participants may work on any sewing project, by machine or hand, that they wish. There is no obligation to attend every week or to stay the entire 3 hours. Best of all, there is no fee to attend!

In keeping with the mission of the RCC, this is a supportive learning environment where more experienced quilters share their knowledge, tips, and techniques with less experienced quilters. We offer a Learn to Quilt component where beginners can learn to make a quilt before investing a lot in fabric, tools, and notions. They only need to have a

working sewing machine and have a basic understanding of how to sew on it.

Through a partnership with the Q.U.I.L.T.Schenectady quilt guild, Veterans Quilt kits are available for beginners. Experienced quilters in the group help teach the beginner quilter how to make the quilt, and provide ongoing support through all phases of the quilt making process. Once the quilt is completed, the quilt is returned to the guild to be donated to the VA Hospital or the Fisher House.

There is no need to sign up, just show up. However, if you have questions, you can contact Lisa Wend at (518) 852-5084 or [LPiseczny@nycap.rr.com](mailto:LPiseczny@nycap.rr.com). For more information about the Rotterdam Community Center check out their website at <https://rotterdamcc.org/> and their Facebook page.

*Lisa Wend*

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### Straight from the Heart Kids Quilts

Our November sew-in has come and gone. It was amazing to see so many people working on quilts for kids while enjoying camaraderie with old friends and new guild members. It was a sight to see! Our next sew-in will be at our February meeting. We will start at 4:00 and sew until around 8:30. For those able to join us at 4:00, there will be a light dinner of pizza salad. Bring your own beverage. Similar to this last sew-in, I will have premade fabric kits available, which will include the fabric needed to make a quilt. These kits may require members to cut the pieces per direction, so bring all your cutting supplies. There will only be a

limited number of kits completely cut out available. There will also be quilt kits ready for quilting. They will include the top, batting, backing and binding. At this point, we have a backlog of almost 100 quilt tops ready to be quilted. There will be many members willing to help teach those who would like to learn how to quilt on a domestic machine. Straight line quilting looks great on these quilts! Looking forward to another great day of sewing and friendship!!

*Maggie*

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**November Pet Bed Sew In**  
Great job ladies, Thank you!

*Jane Martinec*



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### **Block of the Month**

Block of the Month is back to being a fund-raiser for the guild. At each in-person meeting, members will have the opportunity to support the guild, learn a new pattern, skill or 'trick' and have their name put into a drawing to win all of the completed blocks for that month. Each kit is \$2 and includes a pattern for you to keep and material to complete the block. Members are encouraged to bring the completed block to the next month's meeting at which time your name will be included for the drawing. Remember, the winner will receive all of

the completed blocks! If you are unable to attend the next meeting and return the block, maybe another member can return it for you, or just be sure to bring it to the next meeting. A winner has already been chosen for the September block of the month and the drawing for November's blocks will be drawn at the December meeting and holiday party. We can't wait to see your completed blocks!

*Susan Baron*

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### **For Sale: Baby Lock Jazz Sewing Machine**

Sewing & quilting machine with 12 inches of throat space, LED lighting, 28 built-in stitches & built-in needle threader. Comes with all original accessories, Walking-foot, Sew Steady table, Instruction Guide, dust cover & accessory case containing 16 additional feet. Contact **Debbie McIntosh** for more information: 518-369-2649 or [dgmcintosh@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dgmcintosh@nycap.rr.com).

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

Website: [www.QUILTSchenectady.org](http://www.QUILTSchenectady.org)

Programs: [QUILTSprogram@gmail.com](mailto:QUILTSprogram@gmail.com)

Newsletter: [QUILTSnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:QUILTSnewsletter@gmail.com)

Webmaster: [QUILTSwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:QUILTSwebsite@gmail.com)

## Officers and Committee Heads for 2024-2025

President	Karen Smith
Vice President	Laurel Gailor
VP, Membership	Arilee Bagley
VP, Program	Connie Trigger
Treasurer	Cathryn Larkin
Secretary	Debbie West
Newsletter	Barbara Becker
Webmaster	Kathy Wagnor
Quilt Show Chair	Debbie MacIntosh
Straight From the Heart	Maggie Katz
Veterans Quilts	Lisa Wend
Block of the Month	Susan Baron Sandi Butcher
Fat Quarters	Darlene Balfort Rose Marie Grey
Goodie Baskets	Janet Mattis Felicia Campo
Library	Kathy Hermance
Historian	
Hospitality	Georgette Galvin