



Marathon Quilter's Newsletter

Our guild will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Becky's house in Holliston for our annual holiday potluck and a fun-filled sock exchange! We hope you can all make it!*

December Meeting

Don't forget your fun, funky or silly pair of holiday socks for the Yankee Swap at our annual holiday Potluck! Please fill them with little sewing notions, small quilted items, or other little trinkets and gifts, and we'll have fun exchanging them. Don't spend more than \$25. Many thanks to Becky for hosting this year's potluck! Becky's address is 1038 Washington Street in Holliston.

Block Bee participants should bring Kerry's blocks to the meeting. Linda is December's Queen Bee, so she will give out the instructions for her requested block at the meeting.

As a preview for January:

Keep working on your Panel Challenges, which are due at our next meeting on January 8th! Use any panel that appeals to you – a single panel or multiple ones, and use your imagination: cut it, change it, frame it, embellish it, quilt it...the sky's the limit! No size or shape restrictions. We can't wait to see how they all come out! Also in January, we will start the Pantone Challenge (<https://store.pantone.com/uk/en/color-of-the-year>). If you are interested in making the Mystery quilt pattern that goes along with our challenge, please e-mail Jean at jeanber65@hotmail.com.

President's Corner

With the holidays upon us, there are so many "to dos" to be completed. I sometimes find the "to dos" overshadow the "whys". My hope is that during this month, each of us can take

a moment to remind ourselves of “why” we commit our time and energy to our quilting projects and the Guild. (To jog your memory on why we love quilting (if you needed that), I have included a piece from *Keepsake Quilting (2016)* below:

Top 10 Reasons Why We Love Quilting

<https://blog.keepsakequilting.com/2016/03/top-10-reasons-love-quilting/>

Reason 1: The Fabric

Let’s face it—from pretty pastel prints to deep, dark batiks, we’ve never met a fabric we didn’t like.

Reason 2: To Give Gifts

A big part of the joy of quilting is bestowing our projects on others. There are so many opportunities for a quilted gift: weddings, a new baby, housewarming, birthdays, graduations—any time you want to show someone you care with a handmade gift.

Reason 3: For Charity

Even when you don’t know the person who will receive your quilt, the thought of wrapping them in a comforting handmade hug of fabric makes everyone feel better.

Reason 4: Quilt Comfort

Think about it: in the movies when they want to show someone is at home, warm, and welcome, they wrap them in a bed quilt. Quilts feature heavily in films that celebrate love, tradition, home and hearth—and especially a connection with a loving person. Think of the feminine [pinwheel quilt](#) on Meg Ryan’s bed in “You’ve Got Mail,” the “baby maker” [pineapple quilt pattern](#) in “The Proposal,” or the magnificent [Baltimore Album](#) design in “How to Make an American Quilt.”

Reason 5: DIY Home Decor

Quilting projects make it easy to change our home decor. From a pillow to a table topper to a landscape wall hanging, all you need to do is gather fabric and quilting supplies to make over an area in your home.

Reason 6: Artistic Expression

Other people may not get it, but quilters do: creating a picture or pattern in fabric is just as enjoyable to us as painting or photography is to someone else. And we’re just as proud to show off our quilts—hung on the walls, draped over a sofa, or spread on the bed.

Reason 7: To Commemorate an Event

Maybe it’s the way a quilt is a forever gift, or maybe it’s because events give us deadlines, and deadlines make us finish quilts! Either way, we like to quilt to honor an [anniversary](#), a significant milestone, or a special honor.

Reason 8: The Social Factor

Who doesn’t love the company of other quilters? Guilds, quilt shows, quilting friend groups, and social media—it’s so much fun to share ideas, get advice, and compare fabric stashes.

Reason 9: Relaxation and Mental Health

Many [recent studies](#) have shown that quilting is good for your health—but quilters didn’t need experts to tell them that. Anyone who has thrilled to the sight and touch of a room full of fabric or enjoyed the meditative concentration that comes from hand stitching a binding knows that endorphins and relaxation don’t just come from running or yoga.

Reason 10: Who needs a reason? We just love it!

I hope to see all of you at the December meeting/potluck at Becky's house. (If anyone needs a ride, please email or call another member.) We will be talking about the success of the 2018 Show and planning for the 2020 show, talking about innovations and upcoming programs and events. See you at Becky's!

Regards,

Nancy

Quilt Retreat

The quilt retreat Karen has planned is confirmed and going forward for the weekend of the **14th through the 17th of February** at West Pond Inn in Bolton. Thank you, Karen! In order to book the weekend and reserve your spot, kindly let Karen know (karenswiech@gmail.com), fill out the registration form (attached to November's newsletter) and send Susan Loring at West Pond Inn a deposit of \$75 immediately. Checks should be made payable to "Susan Loring". Cost is about \$105/night, which includes breakfast and dinner; lunch is on our own.

A Friday and Saturday stay means that you'll be there for dinner on Friday, spend the night at the inn both nights, and be there for breakfast and dinner on Saturday and then breakfast on Sunday. A Thursday night stay will include dinner on Thursday and breakfast on Friday. We must be out by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you do not wish to stay overnight, the day charge is \$75 a day and includes breakfast and dinner.

Charity Quilts

We had a wonderful time at Becky's **Studio on the Hill** in November making quilts for Ascentria Care Alliance's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program and really enjoyed meeting one of the organization's longtime members Winnie Spillers, who touched us with her compassion and love for the children and young adult refugees she has been helping for years in MA. Not only did Winnie give us a lot of information about immigration in our state, but for me at least, she also made the entire project a very personal one, just as Lynn did for our last charity quilt project for caregivers of loved ones recovering from Traumatic Brain Injury. Thank you to Becky and Lynn for organizing another wonderful charity project. Becky and Lynn would like to have the quilts finished by our December meeting, but if you are unable to meet this deadline, the organization would be happy to receive our quilts any time. If you are unable to sew but have quilts you would like to donate to the project, please contact Becky or Lynn. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this worthy project!

Marathon Quilters on FACEBOOK

Join Marathon Quilter's Facebook Group... Search for Marathon Quilters and submit a request to join. This is a great place to share pictures of what you are working on, inspiration or ideas you think the group would be interested in and ask questions of the group.

HAPPY December BIRTHDAY!!! ... Becky, Joanne and Nancy

* The pattern for the panel quilt on the first page is found on http://animasquilts.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=451 and is called "Winter Chickadee Collage." Another fun site I came across that seems to offer many holiday quilting projects and gift ideas is found at <https://www.favequilts.com/Christmas-Projects/Christmas-Quilt-Patterns-and-Projects>.