

# The NIMBLE THIMBLE

<http://www.nbquilts.org/>



## President's Message

The holiday season seems to have sped by. I hope that the season was a time of renewal for all of you and your families. Now, of course, comes the New Year and with its arrival comes the pressure of making new resolutions. Will my new ones stand any less chance of being ignored than my old ones?

I remember as a neophyte quilter some of the most definite resolutions I made. I resolved that I would never begin a new project without finishing the previous one. Further, I resolved that I would limit my projects to bed-sized quilts only. I made the first resolution because I knew myself. There would always be something new for me to try. I had to resist the impulse of trying the most recent technique I had seen. I made the second one because I wanted my work to last. I reasoned that no one would throw out a bed-sized quilt. It would be just too useful. Certainly it might end up being used harshly but that was better than the fate I imagined for smaller works. I could see them thrown into the back of a closet or tossed in an overstuffed drawer.

Needless to say neither resolution lasted long. I currently have at least five unfinished projects waiting in various stages of incompleteness. Forget about bed-sized quilts. I ran out of storage room in my linen closet and I still think that the number of quilts in my walk-in closet increases every time I shut the door.

The lesson I've learned is that I have to refine my resolutions. Here goes. This year I resolve to complete at least one project so that I will have an entry for our 2010 quilt show. I resolve that I will try one technique that I've never used before (still loosely working toward the goal of making one of every type of quilt out there), and I resolve that I will try to limit my fabric purchases (but I also resolve that I won't feel too guilty when I find the perfect addition to my stash). Lastly, let's all resolve to enjoy all aspects of our shared quilting odyssey.

Happy quilting in 2009!

*Pat Bruno*

## Next Meeting:

**January 15, 2009**

\*6:30 PM at St. Barnabas  
Pot Luck Supper  
Book Sale

## Please Bring:

- Pot Luck Dish
- Pot Luck Tableware
- Your Name Tag
- Show & Tell Items
- Library Books due
- Block of the Month
- Money/checkbook to sign up for workshops



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**Narragansett Bay Quilter's Association  
General Meeting November 20, 2008**

The evening began with a very entertaining slide show followed by a trunk show presented by Karen Eckmeier.

**Show and Tell of quilts made at the quiltathon:** Joan Taylor reported there were 42 tops made by 26 members and two friends. Four additional tops have been donated as well as two finished quilts. Donna Woodworth was the "lucky word" winner of the quiltathon. Comfort quilts will be donated this year to Project Linus, Wood River Health Clinic and Hematology Oncology Associates of RI. A quilt from last year was presented to Nina Ashworth of "Nina's House." Nina came forward to accept the quilt which will hang in the lobby and explained the function of "Nina's House." Joan thanked Billie Bunnewith and Kassie Randall for the entertainment and gathering of the material for all the backings to go with the quilts. 90,714 square inches of tops were made this year. The tops were handed out to the membership to take home and quilt. Please return by February meeting.

**Break for refreshments**

**President** – Pat Bruno: called the general meeting to order at 8:00 pm

**Show and Tell**

**Vice President** – Melanie Johnston: The raffle quilt top is finished. Any member who wants to machine quilt the raffle quilt in exchange for publicity may let Melanie know. A longarm quilter will be drawn from those volunteering.

**Secretary** – Sharon Mayers: It was motioned and voted to accept the October secretary's report.

**Treasurer** – Margaret White: Beginning Balance \$24,107.85, Income \$ 6,726.00 Expenses \$ 1,623.77, Ending Balance \$29,210.08. It was motioned and voted to accept treasurer's report.

**Historian** – Barbara Hartford: Pictures taken so far this season are on display in the back of the room.

**Hospitality** – Sue Ellis: January meeting is our annual potluck dinner. A signup sheet was circulated for members to designate what they would be bringing. Meeting starts at 6:30. Members planning to attend were asked to bring their own place settings.

**Librarian** – Naomi Champagne: Maybeth Cost is a new assistant to Naomi. Naomi reported Nancy Messier has suggested having quilt patterns for lending in addition to the books. Naomi asked the members to contribute a pattern each to get this new feature started. In October Naomi and 3 other ladies went through all the library books and weeded out the ones not loaned out very much. These books will be available for sale at the January meeting during the pot luck supper.

**Membership**—Gail Macera: 116 members present. Pat B reminded members who wish to bring a guest to notify Gail in advance.

**New England Quilt Museum** – Ginny Perry: Absent. Newsletter contains information about future events at NEQM

**Newsletter**—Melanie Johnston: If you have an article or suggestion for one for future newsletters, please send to Melanie. Melanie thanked Pat Harrison and Pat Ferguson for their articles in the Nov-Dec newsletter.

**Programs** – Sandy Barron & Pat Harrison: There are still some openings in the workshops scheduled for the rest of the year. See Sandy or Pat H if interested.

**Publicity** – Ginny Perry: Absent

**Quilt Show** – Joan Taylor: Quilt Show 2010 dates will remain in same time slot.

**Block of the Month** – Sharon Bibeault, Sharon showed a sample of the BOM for Jan.

**Special Events** – Lynda Puglia & Lynda Bogdahn: Reserve April 25<sup>th</sup> for bus trip to the Cape. Details to follow.

**Door Prizes:** 6 door prizes drawn.

**Block of the Month winner:** Wendy Kenyon

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Pat B announced that Nancy Messier has a show of her photos on display at the Cranston Public Library. Board members are going to try to move the date for board meetings to coincide with the general meeting. The board members will meet at 5:30 on dates prior to the general meeting. This is a trial as some board members travel a long distance for these meetings. Pat B reported how fast Melanie is about getting information to the members and referenced Natalie Bielawski's request for help in giving canned goods or money to the Federal Hill House in Providence. Natalie thanked the members for their wonderful response. Pat B announced NBQA gets 10% of money spent there by NBQA members

Meeting adjourned 8:43 pm. Respectfully submitted, Sharon Mayers, secretary

## Quilt Appraisals

NBQA is providing a great opportunity for you to have your quilt(s) appraised.

**Vivien Sayre** will do quilt appraisals on Thursday, February 19 (the day of the February NBQA General Meeting). You must make an appointment with Sandy Barron or Pat Harrison.

Vivien Lee Sayre is an appraiser certified by the American Quilter's Society, and a member of the Board of Directors of the New England Quilt Museum (NEQM). She also serves on the Acquisition Committee of NEQM and is a member of the Steering Committee of The Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project.

Vivien lectures extensively on the history of quilted textiles, colors, patterns and the differences in quilt styles through the centuries. She lectures and appraises quilts throughout the country.

As a member and past Co-chair of MassQuilts, Vivien has seen some of the earliest quilts to arrive on our shores, as well as those made from imported and domestic fabrics. She has appraised and documented everything from very early historic quilts to the latest art quilts.

## Newcomer's Corner

January is "Pot Luck" dinner time. Bring a dish that will feed 6-8 to put on the community banquet table. Bring table settings, wine, candles, hats, take it as far as you dare. Choose a group of friends to sit with or take the opportunity to meet some new quilters. Have a great time!

**The fun starts at 6:30 PM – Don't be late!**

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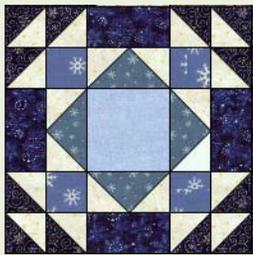


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### Block of the Month



#### January Snowflakes.

Make it up in blues & whites. Add a touch of sparkle. Make one, or two, or three! The more you make, the more chances to win. If you did not yet receive your diskette or handout with the patterns, you can get them on the NBQA website: [nbquilts.org](http://nbquilts.org).

### Great Escape Weekend March 6-8, 2009

W. Alton Jones Campus \$160.00

Tina Craig will lead our Saturday workshop: **"Miniature Easy Overlay."** In the simplest colorway, the Mini Overlay incorporates a black & white checkerboard "base" on point with a brightly colored linking grid that appears to "float" on top. The "mini" wall hanging finishes at 30" square and the top can be completed fairly quickly. This is a fun design for beginners and experts alike. A picture of the project will be provided with the supply list.

To register, send \$50 deposit along with your name, address and phone number to:

Barbara W. Barber



### Bus Trip!

Come with us on a **SHOP HOP.**

Saturday, April 25, 2009, we will be going to:

**Quilter's Stash** in North Attleboro

**Heartbeat Quilts** in Hyannis, and

**Tumbleweed**, also on the Cape.

The cost of the trip will be \$33.00 which includes the bus, lunch and tip for the driver.

**Sign-ups begin at the February meeting.**



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## Classroom - Care of Antique Quilts

by *Marian Adams*

Fabric deteriorates with time. With carelessness, we can speed up the process greatly, but with care, we can slow it down so that our treasures can be shared with generations to come.

First we need to eliminate textile enemies. The worst are plastic bags, (Stop right now!!!! Get those quilts out of the plastic bags immediately and into pillow cases until you can provide better storage), heat and light, body oils and perspiration (why docents wear white gloves), and wooden drawers and blanket chests. They contain acid that causes brown spots on fabric. Paper and cardboard boxes that are not acid free are wood products and contain the same acid.

Before any cleaning is undertaken, several considerations need to be made:

- The condition of the quilt
- The age of the quilt
- The provenance of the quilt and its value

If the quilt is considered an antique with a provenance that gives it important value, nothing but necessary conservation should be considered. Conservation stops any further deterioration. It is not restoration. To paraphrase the medical admonition, “first, do no harm.” Do not repair torn pieces by adding other fabrics. A quilt is dated by the newest fabric in the quilt. If some of the fabrics have rotted to the point where they have begun to shred, use a very fine bridal tulle. Cut a piece of tulle the same shape as the patch. With fine cotton thread and a fine needle, baste the tulle over the worn piece with very small stitches. The fine tulle allows the original fabric to show through as well as giving it some stabilizing support. Then check for broken seams or stitches and repair first. Always use cotton thread. Polyester thread can cut fibers over time.

If the fabric of the quilt shows signs of rotting or is beyond repair, DO NOT WASH. Instead, vacuum the quilt through fiber glass screening with low suction. Fiberglass screening can be purchased at hardware stores. If you don't want to make a frame for the screening, place a clean sheet on the floor, spread the quilt on top, place the screening on the quilt, extending the edges beyond the quilt so that weights or books can be used to hold the screening in place. Vacuum on low suction to remove grime and dust from the quilt. Repeat section by section until the entire quilt, both sides, has been vacuumed. An alternative to the screen would be a piece of panty hose stretched over the nozzle of the vacuum.

If you feel that the quilt can be washed safely, test every different fabric with a cotton swab dipped in the intended washing solution. Use a fresh swab for each different fabric and color. If color appears on the swab, DO NOT WASH.

If the quilt has been determined to be colorfast and strong enough to withstand washing, proceed with caution. Do not use detergents with phosphates or brighteners. If the quilt is comparatively new (within the last 15-20 years) and the fabrics have been pre-shrunk and colorfast, it can be washed in the gentle cycle using cool water. Spin dry only until the bulk of the water is out of

## Care of Antique Quilts (continued)

the machine. The centrifugal force of spinning is very hard on delicate stitches. It is better to air dry the quilt in the shade. Never iron a quilt.

If the quilt is older but colorfast and carefully mended, and you feel it must be washed, line the bathtub with a bed sheet. Using cold water and a gentle washing solution, place the quilt in the tub and use your hands to provide a gentle plunging action. When the water becomes dirty, drain the water from the tub. Push the quilt to the side of the tub, gently squeezing out the excess water. **DO NOT PICK UP THE QUILT.** The weight of the water will cause it to tear. Repeat this procedure until the water no longer shows dirt. Rinse the same way until the water runs clear. Never lift a portion of the quilt while still wet. When as much water as possible has been squeezed out by pushing against the side of the tub, gather the quilt together using the sheet as a sling to give it complete support and place in a laundry basket. Place the sheet and quilt on the grass, in the shade to dry.

Quilts should not hang for more than six months at a time without being taken down and rested. To make a sleeve for hanging, take a strip of muslin, 10-12 inches wide and 1 inch shorter than the width of the quilt. Fold it in half lengthwise and sew the long sides together. The sleeve can then be basted to the wrong side of the top of the quilt and hung from a bar, curtain rod fashion. For an older more fragile quilt, make a wooden frame, one inch smaller in all dimensions than the quilt. Cover it with a polyurethane finish to keep the wood acid from creeping out. Use Velcro on the frame and the quilt. This will support it on all four sides. If the quilt is a cherished antique, baste a backing of well washed muslin to the entire back of the quilt for complete support, sewing the Velcro on the muslin. Then use the frame method.

Store quilts as flat and as unfolded as possible. A "sausage" of acid free tissue should be inserted in each fold. Refold every six months. If first folded in quarters, refold in thirds. If stored in a wooden drawer or chest, line the chest first with well washed cotton muslin. Acid free boxes and tissue are available at: CLOTILDE 800-772-2891, or [www.clotilde.com](http://www.clotilde.com). One box, 18x30x6 inches and 24 sheets of tissue cost under \$30.

*Marian Adams is an NBQA Associate member and mother of NBQA member Deb Hobgood. Marian has been involved with quilting since 1972 and lectures extensively concerning quilt and textile conservation.*



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## Publicity & New England Quilt Museum

Virginia Perry

Rhode Island Sewing Network schedule: website: <http://members.cox.net/cmgezzer/risn.htm>

March 3, Kathi Grilli "ART QUILTS"

April 7, Bill Graham "CHANNEL'S LITTLE BLACK DRESS"

May 5, Deb Newhall COSTUME DESIGNS

If you are interested in attending any of these events contact Carolyn Gazerro (401) 821-8008 or [cmgezzer@cox.net](mailto:cmgezzer@cox.net).

### New England Quilt Museum

Please keep putting things aside for the biennial NBQA *UNFINISHED OBJECT AUCTION*. This event will be held at the May NBQA meeting. All proceeds go to benefit the New England Quilt Museum. Books, patterns, notions, fabric, embellishments or projects you started but won't finish, make great donations. Please put these items aside and bring them to Ginny at the April meeting.

If you can help Ginny organize the auction, please contact her.



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## The\*\*Quilt\*\*Judge Is In . . .

Pat Harrison



**I would like to know how judges compare hand pieced/quilted quilts with machine pieced/quilted quilts. I think there should be different categories, but I've noticed at several quilt shows that there is no distinction made.**

It is not the judge who decides what is compared to what in a show-judging situation. This is decided by the quilt show's sponsor. The show's sponsor decides the judging format, categories (if any), number of ribbons, and special awards. The judge's evaluation of the quilt is based on how well a particular technique, such as hand piecing, is done. In addition, the judge is not concerned with what technique has been used in, for example, the hand piecing, only the level of quality that is evident in the hand piecing, as the quilt is judged. If a hand piecing category or special ribbon is awarded, the quilt with the best example of this technique would be recognized. There are levels of quality in all aspects of the quilting process. The quilt with the highest level of quality in a given technique will receive positive comments on that technique if the technique was singled out by the sponsor.

I was surprised myself when I began the CJ process that the judge is charged with following the organization of the show sponsors. This does cause confusion to those quilters unfamiliar with the judging process. I had always thought that my quilt's name and description would be known to the judge to help them understand what I was trying to create. Not so. The need to maintain objectivity in the judging room is important, as is the judge's ability to respond to the quilt without prejudice. In most judging rooms, the quilt's number and name are read off right before the quilt is judged, some shows only allow the number to be read. Each show is unique as is the judging criteria, the show categories, the awards, and the competition.

**Also, I would like to know how quilts that are machine quilted professionally are compared with those quilted by the "amateur" quilter.**

I think this question was answered in the previous paragraphs but I know there is some additional misunderstanding here. Unless the show has separated "amateur" from "professional" and provided a distinction for this, all machine quilted quilts compete against each other. For myself, I've seen "amateur" quilting that far surpasses "professional." Again, it is the quality of the quilting itself that is judged, not how it was achieved, how many hours it took, how sore your neck and shoulder muscles were when it was finally finished. These are not elements of the judging process – as only what is in front of the judge can be evaluated.

*This is a new column by NBQA member and RI's only nationally certified quilt judge, Pat Harrison. Each month Pat will answer your questions about quilt judging. Several of you have sent in questions and they will be answered in upcoming columns. If you have one to submit, e-mail it to [nbqamail@gmail.com](mailto:nbqamail@gmail.com).*

# Classifieds

Here you will find:

- Quilting groups/mini groups inviting you to participate or drop by.
- NBQA members who run groups or are teaching classes that you are invited to attend.
- Members seeking a particular group or person with certain skills.
- Ads from NBQA members with fabric or other quilting items for sale
- Each NBQA member is allowed 1 free ad per year. Subsequent ads are \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for the year.

If you have a “Classified” you would like to run in the next newsletter, e-mail it to [info@nbquilts.org](mailto:info@nbquilts.org).

Quilting Group	Classifieds
<p>The <b>Tuesday Quilting Group</b> invites you to join them every Tuesday from 9:30 AM – noon. Stay a short while or the entire morning. No reservation needed. Bring your own work. We have tables, chairs &amp; outlets for machines. We meet at the Shawmut Baptist Church, 1642 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI. There is plenty of parking in the lot on Armstrong Ave. Come in through the office door and go up the steps. For question contact Fran at 401-732-5116.</p>	<p>Brand new Janome sewing machine student model S-3015. Cost \$429, asking \$350. Call Diane at 1-800-631-0183 x774 if interested.</p>

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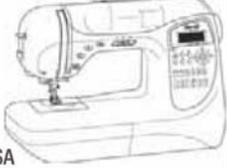
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## **New England Quilt Museum**

18 Shattuck St.  
Lowell, MA 01852  
978-452-4207

[www.nequiltmuseum.org](http://www.nequiltmuseum.org)



Lowell is located 28 miles north of Boston off Interstate 93 and 495 and Route 3. Take the Lowell Connector from either Interstate 495 (Exit 35C) or Route 3 (Exit 30N Northbound or 30A Southbound) to Thorndike Street (exit 5B). Go the 6th light and turn right onto Market Street.

Park at street meters, the Leo A. Roy Market Street Garage, or on weekends ONLY, the lot behind the museum on Middle Street.

To drive up to the door, go into the next light into Palmer Street. Go to the next light and turn left onto Merrimack Street. Go to the next corner and turn left onto Shattuck.

## **2008-9 Exhibition Schedule**

November 5 – January 10, 2009  
**Gifts From the Heart: New  
Acquisitions from the Binney &  
Weinberg Families**

January 29 – April 19, 2009  
**Fabric Collection**

April 23 – July 12, 2009  
**Master Pieces: Haberdashery  
Textiles In Antique Quilts**

November 19, 2009 – February 25, 2010  
**Masters: Art Quilts**

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Museum hours are 10 am - 4 pm  
Tuesday-Saturday year around;  
in addition May through December,  
Sundays 12 pm - 4 pm.