

March/April 2009

The NIMBLE THIMBLE

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



President's Message: "A Quilter's Eye"

I've just returned from a two and a half week trip to the west coast to welcome my newest grandson, and I was reminded once again that we who quilt probably have a different view of our world than non-quilters do. As I accompanied the twenty month old "big sister" to the very busy playground every day, I found myself examining the mosaics that decorated benches all around the park. I was looking for new themes to incorporate into my quilts. The trees and flowers (yes, flowers bloom in southern California in February) that dotted these little urban oases became items to study so that they might be included in my next pictorial project. Decorative tiles on floors and walls offered inspirations for traditional quilt blocks.

As I delivered my latest crib quilt, I naturally began thinking about the four other crib quilts I had happily stitched for my previous "grand's." Now I'm trying to complete the "big bed" quilts for my older grandkids. These are fun because each is the result of many hours of collaboration with the lucky child. This is a great way to share special moments with the youngest of my family. I learn all about their interests and their dreams while in the back of my mind is the thought that perhaps someday these coverings will be handed down, in turn, to the next generation. Perhaps the recipient will be the person in the next generation to continue the quilting tradition.

I find that I even look at my daily surroundings in a different way. I can no longer drive by southern Rhode Island woods without examining the various layers of growth from the rotting derelicts on the forest floor to the half-dead leaves that cling to stunted bushes throughout the winter. Everywhere I go I seem to find patterns. We're surrounded!

As a quilter I often wonder what my legacy will be. To me the best legacy is not the beautiful heirloom quilts that I've attempted to make, but the tattered crib quilt that has been worn out from loving and washing.

(continued on page 2)

Next Meeting:

March 19, 2009

7:00 PM at St. Barnabas

- Book Sale

- Sign up for March 28th quilt-a-thon

- Program: Barbara Pershing & Mary Hoover Stratavarious Quilts

Please Bring:

- Snack if you signed up
- Your Name Tag
- Show & Tell Items
- Library Books due
- Block of the Month
- Money/checkbook to sign up for workshops



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(continued from cover)

I vividly remember my older sister's lamentation as she lay in a hospital bed at the end of her life. She said she had not completed her legacy...she had four quilt tops that she had been unable to complete. One of my last vows to her was that I would see them completed and would give one to each of her four children.

I believe that we quilters are a special group with a unique perspective. I'm often thinking about the bridge that quilting provides from generation to generation. I feel joined to the dedicated stitchers who worked by hand and in candlelight 250 years ago stitching a warm blanket with whatever fabrics were at hand. There's a connection to the depression era homemaker using feed sacks to create something beautiful. Think of the contemporary quilters who are now using fabrics in unusual ways, stretching the definition of a quilt. Last month's pot-luck supper afforded me the chance to look out over our membership as each of us waited our turn to fill our plates and I was struck by the wide spread of ages and backgrounds represented in the room.

Our love of quilting has brought us together to continue the tradition of generations of women sharing and helping. We all have the eye of the quilter.

Pat Bruno

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

Tumbleweed in W. Barnstable

We will leave the Rt. 117 Park and Ride at 8:30 and arrive back at 4:30

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

Please make checks out to: NBQA. Cash also accepted.

Looking forward to having you join us for a day of fun and shopping!

**Sign-up at the March meeting or call
Lynda Bogdahn if you cannot attend meeting.**

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**Narragansett Bay Quilter's Association
General Meeting February 19, 2009**

Program: The evening began with a very delightful and entertaining trunk show presented by Barbara Barber.

Break for refreshments:

President – Pat Bruno: Absent

Vice President – Melanie Johnston: Melanie called the meeting to order at 8:15pm. Melanie announced that the raffle quilt for the 2010 Quilt Show will be quilted by Pat Ferguson.

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

Treasurer – Margaret White: Beginning Balance \$20,041.88 Income \$ 420.00
Expenses \$ 1,531.44 Ending Balance \$18,930.44 Quilt Show Fund \$ 8,000
It was motioned and voted to accept treasurer's report.

Historian – Barbara Hartford: No report

Hospitality – Sue Ellis: Sue reported that the cards for the March meeting refreshments were full .

Librarian – Naomi Champagne: Naomi reported that she had ordered 5 new books for the library and still has some money if anyone has other books that they would like added to the library. The used books weeded out from the library are on sale tonight and will be on sale at the March meeting also.

Membership—Gail Macera: 95 members and 4 guests present. Gail reported that the guild has added 2 associate members.

New England Quilt Museum – Ginny Perry: UFO auction for NEQM will be held at our May meeting. "Fabric Connection" is the show at NEQM until April 17th.

Newsletter—Melanie Johnston: Melanie asked that items for the Mar-April newsletter be sent to her as soon as possible.

Programs – Sandy Barron & Pat Harrison: Pat H reported all remaining workshops for this year are full and most have waiting lists. Workshops for 2009-2010 are all booked and most of the workshops for 2010-2011 are booked . Pat H suggested to members that if they are interested in National Speakers and teachers that they attend a bigger regional show as they are too expensive for our budget.

Publicity – Ginny Perry: Ginny reported that the Tues quilt group is now meeting on Mondays. The RI Sewing Network has 2 bus trips a year. See Ginny for more details if interested. Mark Lupinski will be at Emma's Quilting Cupboard on Sat 10-2.

Quilt Show – Joan Taylor: Joan announced that a publicity chairman is needed for the 2010 Quilt show and is looking for volunteers.

Comfort Quilts- Joan Taylor: Joan thanked all who helped on the fall Comfort quilts and reported our next quitathon is to be held Mar 28th. Bring lunch; drinks will be provided. Joan and the Linus Program Director are looking into the Product Improvement Act that was recently passed and how it affects the Linus program and other quilts to be used by children. If anyone has ideas for other places to donate our comfort quilts to let Joan know.

Block of the Month – Sharon Bibeault, Sharon showed a sample of the BOM for March. Sharon pointed out that there is a mistake in original directions for the BOM for April and corrected directions are available in the back of the room tonight; are on the NBQA website, have been emailed to members with email. Sharon has sign up booklets at BOM table next year's BOM directions: When signing up, please chose either CD's or booklets. This will help her determine how many of each need to be created and budgeted for.

Special Events – Lynda Puglia & Lynda Bogdahn: Lynda B reported that signup sheets for the Cape Cod bus trip will also be available at the March meeting. Cost is \$33.00 and includes lunch.

Door Prizes: 7 door prizes drawn.

Block of the Month winners: Wendy Kenyon and Cindy Corey

Show and Tell:

Old Business: Melanie read a thank you note from the Federal Hill House for the member's donation of canned goods and money.

New Business: Melanie reported that there was a suggestion to look into new NBQA sweatshirts. There was a show of hands to look into pursuing this. Zippered sweatshirts were chosen over the pull over type.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Mayers, secretary

Spring Quilt-a-thon for Comfort Quilts!

Joan Taylor

Come join us for a spring Quilt-a-thon on **Saturday, March 28th** at the Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich. We will start at 9:30 am and end around 3:00 pm.

Sign up with Joan Taylor at the March meeting or email her at nbmaterialgirl@yahoo.com

You can sign up with friends as a team or individually and be assigned to a team. Materials will be provided. Come join another **fun day** of quilting for Comfort Quilts.

If you took a comfort quilt from the Fall Quilt-A-Thon to finish up and have not yet completed & returned it, please do so by the March Meeting.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the making, sandwiching and quilting of the tops made last fall!

If you have a suggestion for a recipient organization for some of the quilts, please contact Joan Taylor with the information.

Newcomer's Corner

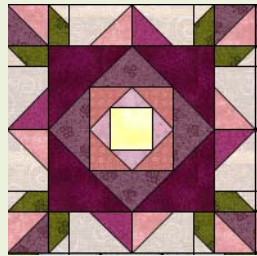
NBQA is a charter member of the [New England Quilt Museum](#). If you have never been, it's worth a trip. You may have noticed that our Newsletter publishes the exhibit schedule. Each year we have an activity to raise money to benefit the museum. In non quilt show years, it is a "UFO" auction. For the uninitiated, "UFO" stands for Un Finished Object. And we all have them! Please see the NEQM newsbox in this newsletter to learn how you can participate in this year's UFO auction. It will happen at the May meeting and is always a very fun time.

Please check with Ginny Perry for passes and/or discount tickets to the NEQM.

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Block of the Month News



April Block - Rose Block

This block is from the book: [*A Dozen Roses: Beautiful Quilts and Pillows*](#) by Jennifer Rounds and Catherine Comyns.

The more you make, the more chances to win!

***Note:** the original packet had an error in the instructions for this block. If you did not receive the e-mailed correction or pick up a correction page at the February meeting, please get the revised instructions from the website: nbquilts.org

We are now doing the BOM planning for next year. Once thing we need to know for planning and budget is how you would like to receive the BOM patterns next year. Do you prefer a CD with the patterns or a printout? Please sign up for one or the other at the next meeting or email Sharon Bibeault.

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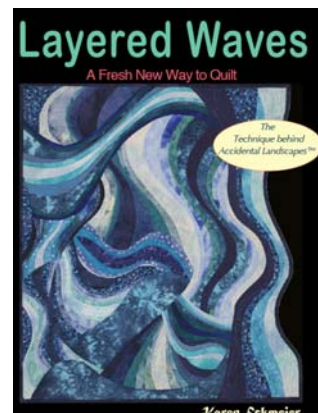


1291 Middle Rd.
East Greenwich, R.I. 02818
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Email: Sellis1291@verizon.net

New Book from Karen Eckmeier

We enjoyed Karen's workshop so much! The program committee thought you might want to know that her new book is out and available on her website. <http://www.quilted-lizard.com>

The pictures are great and the directions are very clear on her layered wave technique.



Thoughts on the Collaboration of Piecers & Longarm Quilters

by Pat Ferguson


This August 2008 letter to IMQA earned NBQA member, Pat Ferguson, a position as regular contributor to "ON TRACK!" magazine and is printed with their permission. "ON TRACK!" is the official magazine of the "International Machine Quilters Association" (IMQA), a worldwide organization whose goal is to further the development and education of private and professional machine quilters by providing a network of support and information, visit www.IMQA.org

IMQA: In regard to the query about quilt top piecers and longarm quilters jointly entering a quilt in a show, here are some of my thoughts as a longarm quilter and teacher:

I have been machine quilting and teaching since 1985 and after making and completing countless quilts, I see the completion of a quilt as the work of 3 separate entities: (1) The design of pattern and choice of fabric. (2) The workmanship and skill of piecing the top and (3) The adeptness of designing the appropriate final quilting and edge finishing. These three entities can be completed by one, two or three individuals- this is why I feel that quilt show scoring needs to be broken down into these 3 entities; they are symbiotic and a quilt cannot be completed if one entity is omitted.

Which came first- the chicken or the egg? If the quilt top were not made, the longarm quilter would not have that particular piece to add her expertise to. If the longarm quilter did not add her expertise to the quilt top, it would never have been accepted in a show as just a top. Either way, neither can stand alone in a quilt show- with the exception of wholecloth quilt tops. A joint effort is being made and both parties must be acknowledged. Many quilt top piecers totally leave the quilting design up to the longarm quilter who then uses her design expertise to coordinate the quilting with the patchwork. On the other hand, many quilt top piecers have an idea of how they want their top quilted and the work truly becomes a collaborative effort. Having an idea and being able to execute it are 2 different things- skill and perseverance allows an idea to become a reality which is where the longarm quilter steps in and definitely needs to be credited along with the top owner.

Another thought to consider- the appraisal value of a quilt can be significantly increased if quilted by a published or prize winning longarm quilter. I have been a victim of "loss of credit" - seeing a quilt, that I have longarm quilted, win a ribbon in a show or published in a magazine, without receiving any acknowledgement from the quilt "topper." I can't describe the sinking feeling of disregard, disappointment and ungraciousness in this loss of credit. My impression is that some quilt "toppers" feel that if they pay the longarm quilter, that is all they are obligated to do as they now "own" the quilt. If you made a beautiful frame and then purchased a piece of artwork to place in it, would you take credit for the artwork just because you framed it? The quilting world needs to educate quilt "toppers" to appreciate the
(continued on next page)



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(continued from previous page)

TLC that the longarm quilter puts into their top. As a longarm quilter, I have squared tops, tamed wavy borders, repaired open seams and carefully bound many tops to make them flat, square and finished.

Don't get me wrong- thankfully, there are more "toppers" who do acknowledge their longarm quilter than don't. Truly, it does not take much effort to do so and can make the both parties feel so wonderful. What better gift to give a person than a sense of being appreciated and acknowledged?

I wonder- does this become more of a problem when the temptation of prize money is involved? Does the quilt top owner believe that the longarm quilter has already been paid or does she share the prize money with the longarm quilter who did 1/3 of the total design on the quilt? (remember- pattern design, top workmanship, longarm quilting expertise). As a matter of etiquette, I would hope that the quilt owner would share in the glory and recognition.

Longarm quilting is here to stay. Most quilt shows that I now attend list both the quilt owner and the professional quilter in the program. Longarm quilters, quilting publications, quilt teachers, and all quilters have a responsibility to educate each other in the proper etiquette of acknowledgement and recognition. We are all here to keep the art of quilting alive by sharing and passing on the knowledge.

As a quilt top piecer remembers every piece of fabric in her stash, a longarm quilter remembers every quilt top she has put her personal style into. When quilting that top, we see every square inch of fabric, every design element and every stitch put into that particular quilt. Longarm quilting is here to stay- I believe there needs to be a separate category for these collaborative effort quilts.

p.s. – I believe the next big issue will become digitized longarm quilting vs. free hand long arm quilting

Pat Ferguson

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Members in the News

Congratulations to our President, Pat Bruno! Pat received two first place ribbons at [A Quilters' Gathering](#) in November, 2008, hosted by the Northeast Quilters' Alliance.

"Birches II" received a first place for *Color Compatibility* and *"Urai, Indian Warrior"* received a first place ribbon for *Best Reflection of the Theme*.

Additionally, Pat received a \$300 cash award and *Best Reflection of a Theme* for *"Anything Goes."* This monetary award is given by All American Crafts Publishing, Inc.

Way to go Ms. President!

Rhode Island Sewing Network

Virginia Perry

March 3, Kathi Grilli "ART QUILTS"

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

April 16-18, **WORCESTER QUILT & SEWING EXPO**

May 5, Deb Newhall **COSTUME DESIGNS** Deb has designed costumes for many plays & movies including "A Christmas Carol" and "27 Dresses."

June 3 (Wed), **NYC Trip**

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

Meetings are at the Greenwich Club; 5426 Post Road, East Greenwich, RI

7:00PM on the 1st Tuesday of the month

Non Member Fee is \$5.00- \$7.00 per meeting

[The Rhode Island Sewing Network](#) is a group of people who share ideas and information on sewing related subjects. The RISN meets October, November, December, March, April and May on the first Tuesday of the month. Professional as well as hobby sewers comprise the membership. Members share techniques or a particular sewing related subject.

New England Quilt Museum – "UFO" Auction!

Virginia Perry

At our May meeting, we will have our annual "UFO" Auction to benefit the New England Quilt Museum. You have always been very generous with your time and donations; I hope you will be again this year.

We need donations of "UFO" projects, fabric, books, notions, and patterns – all kinds of craft related items are appreciated!

This time I am asking you to drop off any donations for the auction at St. Barnabas between 10Am – Noon on Thursday, May 21 (the day of our regular meeting). If possible, bring boxes. It's easier to set up "lots" in them. I am targeting to start setting up the "lots" at noon. I need many people to help me separate items and set up the lots for the evening's auction. Last year there was a wonderful – and greatly appreciated – turnout. Please let me know if you will be able to help so I can organize assignments in advance to make the most of everyone's time.

Thank You !



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The *******Quilt******* Judge Is In . . .

Pat Harrison



Since we can't all have done everything, how do you judge a quilt with a design or technique you yourself have never tried? How do you recognize problems well solved, sometimes brilliantly solved, if you have never had those problems? (I am assuming that the flaws are easier to see.)

Successfully attaining the NQA certified judge designation means that the individual has gone through a rigorous process of researching the entire quilting process. To maintain the NQACJ credential, constant updating of knowledge, quilt show and exhibit attendance, and additional research is required. When a new technique is developed and judged for the first time, it is judged on the current knowledge base of the judge. For example, our October 2009 workshop leader and lecturer, Sherry Rogers-Harrison recently developed her technique "Inklique". The first major show judging it received was at the 2008 AQS show in Paducah. As it was obviously a surface design technique, it was judged on those quality criteria; is medium in situ?, is medium consistently and evenly applied?, is there evidence of wet crocking?, is there evidence of dry crocking?, is there bleeding of the medium on the quilt surface?, is there bleeding of the medium through to the backing?, is the medium within the design lines?, does the medium effect the fabric's hand?, etc...

Judges are always intrigued by the unique handling of a technique and will base their judging on the resulting quality evidenced in the quilt. If a quilt show sponsor has included degree of difficulty and complexity of design into the evaluation process this unique handling would be recognized. Not having mastered a particular technique does not disqualify a judge from evaluating the success of the technique, as the final result is what is being judged, not how the quilter managed to achieve it.

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.

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**NBQA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
2009-2010**

It's that time of year again – time to renew your membership. **REMEMBER:** Our membership number is limited, so renew now! Renewals accepted March, April & May.

Bring this entire form to the meeting with a check or cash, or mail it with your check (made payable to NBQA) to:

**Narragansett Bay Quilters Association*
ATTENTION: Membership
P.O. Box 614 East Greenwich, RI 02818**

* If you are mailing this form and wish to receive your membership card before the September meeting, please enclose a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

I wish to enroll as a Full Member (\$30.00 check enclosed)

I wish to enroll as an Associate Member (\$15.00 check enclosed)

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE YOUR RENEWAL PRIOR TO JUNE 1st!
After June 1st, the membership will be open to people on the waiting list.**

❧ ❧ ❧ ❧ ❧ DO NOT CUT THIS FORM!! PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ❧ ❧ ❧ ❧ ❧

Name: _____
Mailing Address:
Street: _____
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State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

In case of emergency, please contact the following person:

Name: _____
Relationship to you: _____ Phone: _____

Are you interested in working on a committee? Please check you choice(s) so that the appropriate committee chairperson can contact you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Door Prizes	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Block of the Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Suggestions for speaker or programs: _____

***If you are unable to attend our meetings, we encourage you to become an Associate Member. **Associate Membership is \$15.00.** You will receive newsletters, a membership booklet if desired (\$1.00 postage and handling fee required), attend occasional meetings when guest spots are open (there are 5 per meeting), and have your name on a waiting list for bus trips and workshops.

For questions, please contact Gail Macera, Membership Chair

Check # _____ Amount Received _____ Membership Card Mailed _____ Booklet Mailed _____

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.

Quilting Group

The *Monday Quilting Group* invites you to join them every Monday from 9:30 AM – noon. Stay a short while or the entire morning. No reservation needed. Bring your own work. We have tables, chairs & 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.

Local Quilt Show

Quilt Show !

by the

Interfaith Sewing & Service Group

June 27-28, 2009

Saturday 9AM – 5PM; Sunday Noon – 4PM

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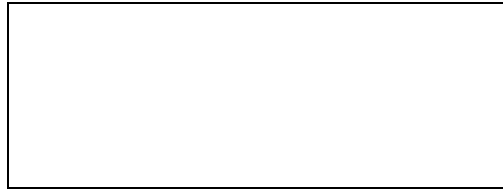
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**New England
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Lowell, MA 01852
978-452-4207
www.nequiltmuseum.org



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.

2009-10 Exhibition Schedule

January 22 – April 19, 2009
Fabric Connection: Seven Swiss Contemporary Quilt Artists

April 23 – July 12, 2009
Radka Donnell: The Work of Touch

July 17, 2009 – September 20, 2010
Massachusetts-Our Common Wealth: Quilts from the Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project

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