



The NIMBLE THIMBLE

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



President's Message

Why Quilt?

Hello everyone. I suspect that there are many very busy quilters out there as the holiday season approaches. Along with all the everyday things we have to accomplish comes the added pressure of finishing up that perfect fabric gift. Sound familiar? My thoughts turn to the reasons why quilting becomes so addictive to so many of us once we start.

There are as many reasons for starting the quilting process as there are quilters, but I think there are some common threads that run through us all. (Pun intended.) Some start quilting through necessity. I count myself in that group. My first quilts were Christmas block-of-the-month creations. Novice that I was, I thought I could complete ten of them in about two months for everyone on my gift list and save money (in the midst of paying two mortgages). Hah! Needless to say, I couldn't and still have some of those wonky blocks left.

Many quilters, I suspect, sew their first quilt as a new baby gift. Certainly a baby quilt is a manageable size for many first-timers. It's also a way for us to wrap a little one in something soft and cuddly and given from the heart. Of course, the baby quilt must be followed up by a special bed quilt as the little ones grow. Can you see a pattern here?

Beyond all this lies another important reason why we quilt, and I think that reason is our desire to surround ourselves with things of beauty. Imagine the Amish quilters whose culture dictates that they live "simply." Denied the opportunity to adorn their homes in the usual ways, they combine necessary stitching (after all they are making bed quilts) with some of the most beautiful hand quilting seen anywhere. My first projects were all bed quilts carefully sewn under the imagined threat that the Quilt Police would thrash me if I didn't use the proper techniques. I reasoned that no one would ever throw out something as useful as a bed quilt. Maybe this is an intrinsic desire we have to leave a legacy.

Continued on page 3

Next Meeting:

November 20, 2008
7:00 PM at St. Barnabas

Please Bring:

- ◆ Your Name Tag
- ◆ Show & Tell Items
- ◆ Vendor- Karen Eckmeier
- ◆ Library Books due
- ◆ Scissors for sharpening
- ◆ Block of the Month
- ◆ Money/checkbook to sign up for workshops
- ◆ Program is: Karen Eckmeier lecture



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***Narragansett Bay Quilter's Association
General Meeting October 16, 2008***

The evening began with a very entertaining trunk show presented by Annie Gallo and Susan Raban

8:10 Break for refreshments. Shopping with Folk Art Quilts. Close up viewing of Annie' and Susan's lovely quilts.

President – Pat Bruno: Called the general meeting to order at 8:25 pm

Vice President – Melanie Johnston: Absent

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

Treasurer – Margaret White: Beginning Balance \$26,709.97, Expenses \$ 2,602.12, Ending Balance \$24,107.85. It was motioned and voted to accept treasurer's report.

Historian – Barbara Hartford: No Report

Hospitality – Sue Ellis: Reminder to members who bring in refreshments to pick up their dishes at end of meeting.

Librarian – Naomi Champagne: Absent. Library closed. Members with books out may keep them for an extra month. Pat B reminded members if they have specific books that they would like to see in the library to let Naomi know.

Membership—Gail Macera: 130 members present

New England Quilt Museum – Ginny Perry: Bead and Button Boutique postponed until April. Oct 25th is Make a Blanket Day at the museum.

Melanie Johnston: Absent. Pat B reminded members of Oct 17th deadline for items to be included in the Nov-Dec newsletter. Please update Melanie with new or changed email addresses.

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. On Thurs of next meeting Vivien Sayre will be available to appraise quilts during the day at Westminster Unitarian Church. Please make an appointment.

Publicity – Ginny Perry: Rhode Island Sewing Network schedule is in. See Ginny for details. Quilters by the Sea quilt show is Oct 18th-19th. Blaine's sewing center having a sale Oct 25th. Burlington Quilt Guild having a Polka Dot Party quilt show Oct 25th-26th at Middlesex Community College. Piecemakers Quilt Guild having a quilt show Nov 1st. See Ginny for details. All above events are also detailed in the newsletter

Quilt Show – Joan Taylor: No report

Block of the Month – Sharon Bibeault: Sharon showed a sample of the angel paper pieced block for Nov. 29 members contributed a block for Oct BOM. Booklets and CD's for BOM patterns are available on back table

Comfort Quilts – Joan Taylor: Quiltathon assignments have been sent out to participating members.

Door Prizes – Lucinda Cory, Randi Sue Sherman & Natalie Bielawski:

Special Events – Lynda Puglia & Lynda Bogdahn: Full bus for the trip to the gathering in Nov. Working on details for a mini shop hop bus trip on April 25th.

Door Prizes: 6 door prizes drawn.

Block of the Month winners: Dolly Calvano and Maria Knight

Old Business: Received a letter from the Elizabeth Buffam Chase Center thanking us for the comfort quilts we gave them.

New Business: Pat B reminded members to help clean up meeting place after the meeting by putting away their chairs, picking up refreshment paper products, etc. Some of our members or member relatives are afflicted with ill health and could use a cheering up card. Those members are Norrene McGeary whose husband is very ill, Cynthia Janetacos and Sue Stedman

Show and Tell

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm
Respectfully submitted, Sharon Mayers, secretary

President's message continued from page 1

I confess that my quilting journey changed completely when I attended my first quilt shows. I was "blown away" by some of the quilts I saw. Who knew that you could paint on fabric, use broderie perse, fusible applique and a host of other techniques to create works of art? I decided that I would no longer worry about the Quilt Police and their criticisms. I've discovered that fabric can be used as a wonderful art medium, forgiving as is. It can satisfy that part of all of us that craves beauty. It can also be used as a form of expression, when women have often had no voice. Think of the Women's Christian Temperance Union using the Drunkard's Path block at the turn of the twentieth century to promote abstinence from liquor or the Aids Quilt which is a graphic picture of suffering

I decided as a new quilter that I wanted to make one of every kind of quilt there is. I'm well along on the process, but every time I look around I find someone doing something new with fabric and my list grows. (I think I'm seeing shades of my first ten-quilt block-of-the-month project.) I know, however, that even if I never reach my goal, I can enjoy the journey regardless of why we are on it.

Members in the News!

Maybe you read the [September 16, Providence Journal article](#) about [Pat Harrison](#). If not, you can read it on the NBQA website. It's a great article about Pat, Rhode Island's *first and only* nationally certified quilt judge!

Nancy Messier, has had a quilt accepted into the November 2008, International Quilt Festival in Houston! Her entry, titled "[Daydreams](#)," was part of our NBQA show in April 2008. The quilt is raw edge applique style made of batiks and hand dyed fabrics with paint and ink added then heavily free motion quilted. Nancy's inspiration was one of her photographs.

Denise Greenlund's quilt, "[Once in a Blue Moon](#)" will appear in the [AQS Quilt Art 2009 engagement Calendar](#) by Klaudeen Hansen and Annette Baker. It is the featured quilt for the week of 8/31/09-9/6/09. Denise's quilt received special judge's recognition in the NBQA 2006 show.

[Pat Ferguson](#) is now a regular contributor to "ON TRACK" magazine from IMQA ([International Machine Quilter's Association](#)). Check out the Nov/Dec issue to read Pat's piece about quilters entering a show when a second party did the machine quilting on the quilt.

Newcomer's Corner

Participate! You joined NBQA to be with others who share you passion for quilting and we are very happy to have you. Now get involved! Make a block-of-the-month, take a workshop, bring your work to "show and tell," sign up to work on a committee. You're gonna like it here . . .

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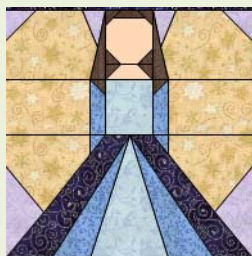
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Block of the Month

Isn't the November block-of-the month great?

Join in the fun and 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.

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

"Thank you!!" to all who participated in the 4th annual Quilt-a-thon!

I want to thank all who supported our 4th annual Quilt-a-thon. We had 26 members and two friends who came and made 42 tops this year - FORTY-TWO - with bindings!!! It was a sewing frenzy all day long. We have never had a more productive group. Two additional tops were donated also.

I truly appreciate everyone's contributions of time and materials this year. As usual, I couldn't have done it without the help of *Billie Bunnewith* and *Kassie Randall*.

I also want to thank those of you that helped put the room back in order on Saturday. It surely made everything at the end go so much easier for me. Thank you!

I want to thank *Folk Art Quilts* and *Pat Coughlin* for their large donations of bolts and cut blocks of material. They were greatly appreciated and went to good use.

This year we will again donate quilts to **Project Linus of RI, Wood River Health Clinic and Hematology Oncology Associates of RI**. If anyone has additional leads, please contact me with the information.

There were 90,714 square inches of tops made this year!! That is a lot of piecing... a single top would measure 15 feet by 42 feet. What a day of sewing!

I will have the tops, backing material (thank you Kassie and Billie for pulling that together too) and bindings available at the November meeting ready to go out to members for quilting. Remember, if you like to quilt but not do bindings, this is your opportunity to only do what you like!! Others will do the binding. A big "thanks" to those members who took tops home with them on Saturday to get us started on finishing them up.

There has been a bit of interest in having a spring quilt-a-thon. I will keep you posted on that...

My sincere thanks to everyone,

Joan Taylor,
 Comfort Quilts Chair

Publicity Update

Virginia Perry

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

November 4, Pat Gervais **BRIDAL ALTERATIONS**
 December 2, **SHOW AND TELL - PILLOW TALK**
 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.

New England Quilt Museum

- The Bead and Button Boutique that is usually held in Oct. has been postponed until the spring.
- NBQA will be having its biennial **UNFINISHED OBJECT AUCTION** to benefit the NEQM at the May meeting. It is a fun evening. To make it a success I need your help. We need donations of many things so as you clean out your sewing room and have books, notions, fabric, patterns, and embellishments you don't want anymore or unfinished projects you won't be finishing consider donating them to the auction. Last time I collected these items throughout the year, however, I am now in a downsizing mode at home so I ask that you keep them aside until the April meeting. In addition to items to auction I will need help to organize the auction. I will be addressing that issue next year. We have always had a successful auction thanks to your help.

Please help again.



Leslie Dacier
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Membership Book Corrections, Changes & Additions




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**BRAID
 PATTERN**

The free Braid pattern that Anne Gallo and Susan Raban mentioned at the October NBQA lecture can be found at www.yankeequilts.com.



Click on the Regency Dandy Braid image to get a PDF file of the instructions.



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

Pat Harrison



What do you consider the most important element of judging a quilt?

The most important element of judging a quilt is the one designated by the show sponsor as being the most important. This may be reflected by the distribution of points or percentages being weighted toward one aspect. For example, in one show situation visual impact might be 50% of the overall evaluation, in another show it might be 20%. This predetermined weight can be found in the show entry information and is determined by the show sponsor well before any judging takes place.

In some shows, the quilts are divided up into categories, such as miniatures, with specific size and scale requirements. For example, a true miniature should be a reduced scale, 1/12th, of a bed quilt. This might be the first thing you confirm as you judge a miniature. If there is a wholecloth category, the first thing you would confirm is if it truly is composed on one fabric. Some shows even specify that the binding must be of the same fabric. It is up to the judge to know the show's requirements and to judge accordingly.

What is the first thing you judge?

Visual impact is the first thing on which a quilt is judged; does the piece get your attention and hold it? Next, the elements and principles of design are brought into play and are analyzed as they relate to the piece. Physical condition is a factor too; is the quilt hanging straight, is the shape true, is it free of threads and pet hair?

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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Classroom - Pat's Pointers for Quilt Storage

by Pat Ferguson

Storing quilts is a major issue for quilters. All too many times I see quilts in black garbage bags or plastic boxes.

I have heard horror stories about quilts unknowingly being left curbside or brought to the landfill by a well intended family member in charge of the weekly trash removal. Plastic is not a good choice for storage because it can collect moisture and does not breathe. If you must have your quilt in a plastic bag temporarily- say to protect it from the rain and your car trunk when bringing it to show & tell- please invest in some clear plastic bags or better yet, use large canvas tote bags.

There are several safer choices depending on the amount of storage space available. An acid free archival quality box is the ideal. These can be a bit pricey and require some storage space, but are the best choice for storing your quilts. Acid free tissue paper is also required to surround your quilts and place between the layers to help cushion folds. One large quilt or two smaller quilts will fit into one box. These boxes are also superb for storing any vintage linens or clothing, but you will want to store these separately from your quilts. A photo placed on the outside of the box will help identify what is inside.

Other options that are less costly and more space saving are drawstring 100% cotton storage bags and zippered fabric boxes. These products protect your quilts from dust and harmful sunlight. If you prefer to use a pillowcase or sheet, use only new 100% cotton. Old pillowcases & sheets, no matter how many times they are washed, can still harbor body oils or bleach residue that can harm quilts over time.

If you choose to store your quilts in a closet, always place new 100% cotton fabric or sheets between the shelf, the walls and the quilt. Wood and paint can stain a quilt and wire shelving can snag your fabric. Quilts can also be rolled onto cotton covered tubes and wrapped in new 100% cotton sheets.

Whatever storage method you choose, your storage area must be dry, free of critters and kept at a fairly constant temperature. This means attics and basements are not the best choices. Make sure your quilts have room to "breathe" and are not stuffed into their container. To avoid wear and permanent creases, about twice a year, unfold your quilts and lay them out on a bed to air, avoiding direct sunlight. When placing your quilt back into storage, refold it in a different configuration- in thirds instead of in half or even on the diagonal.

2 great websites with quilt/textile storage and care information:

www.quiltstudy.org and www.textilemuseum.org

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 *Tuesday Quilting Group* 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 & 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.

Member Classifieds

Each member is entitled to one classified ad with their paid membership. If you have something to sell, advertise it here, e-mail nbqamail@gmail.com

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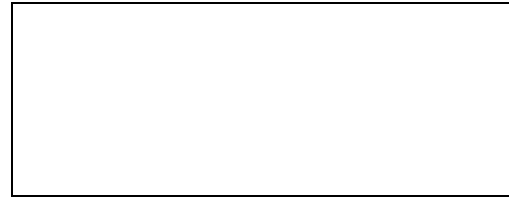
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**Narragansett Bay
Quilters' Association**
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New England Quilt Museum

18 Shattuck St.
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.

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

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